Tamil Arasu

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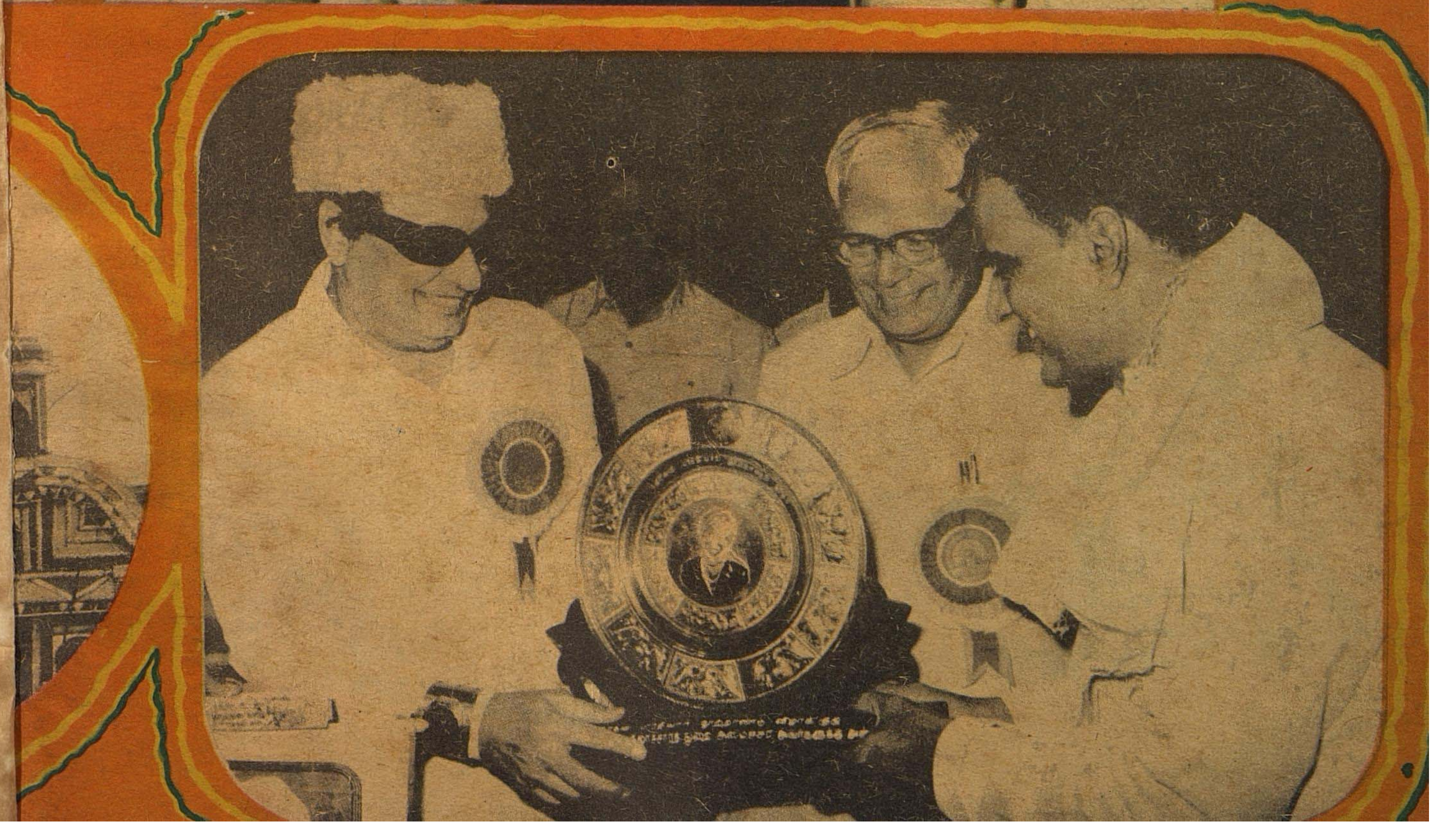
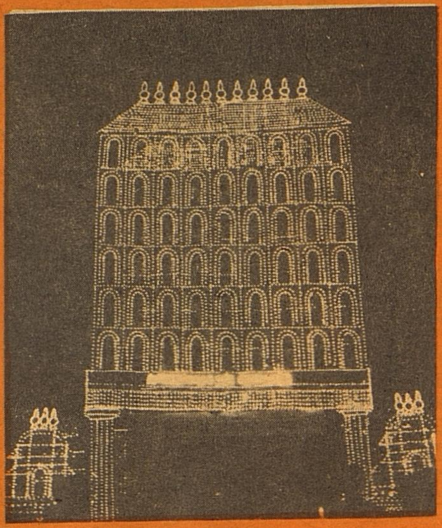
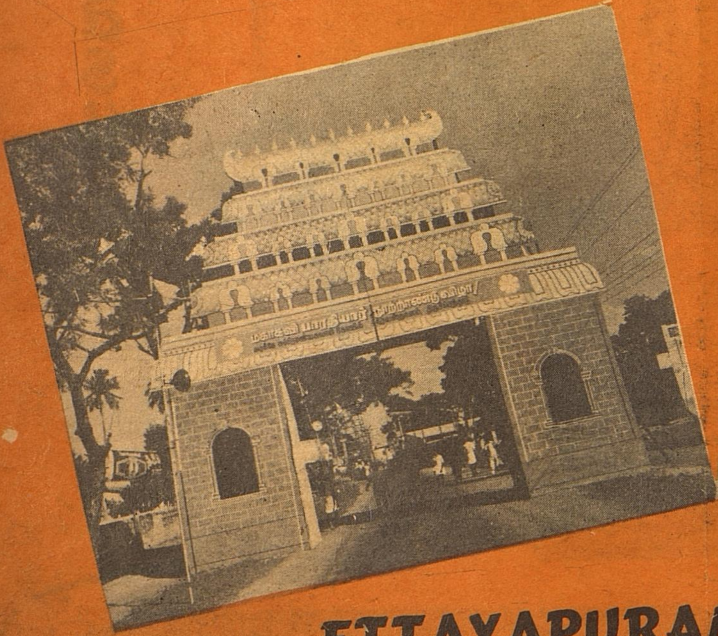
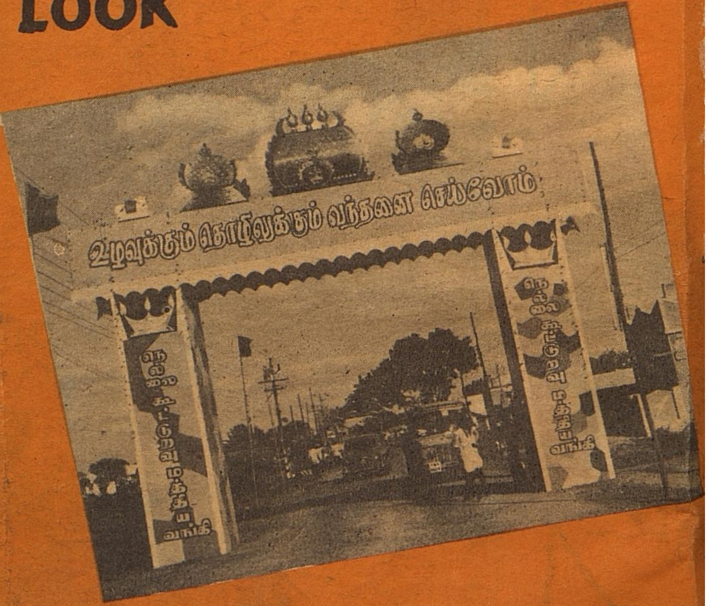




ON THE POET'S CENTENARY



ETTAYAPURAM WEARS A FESTIVE LOOK



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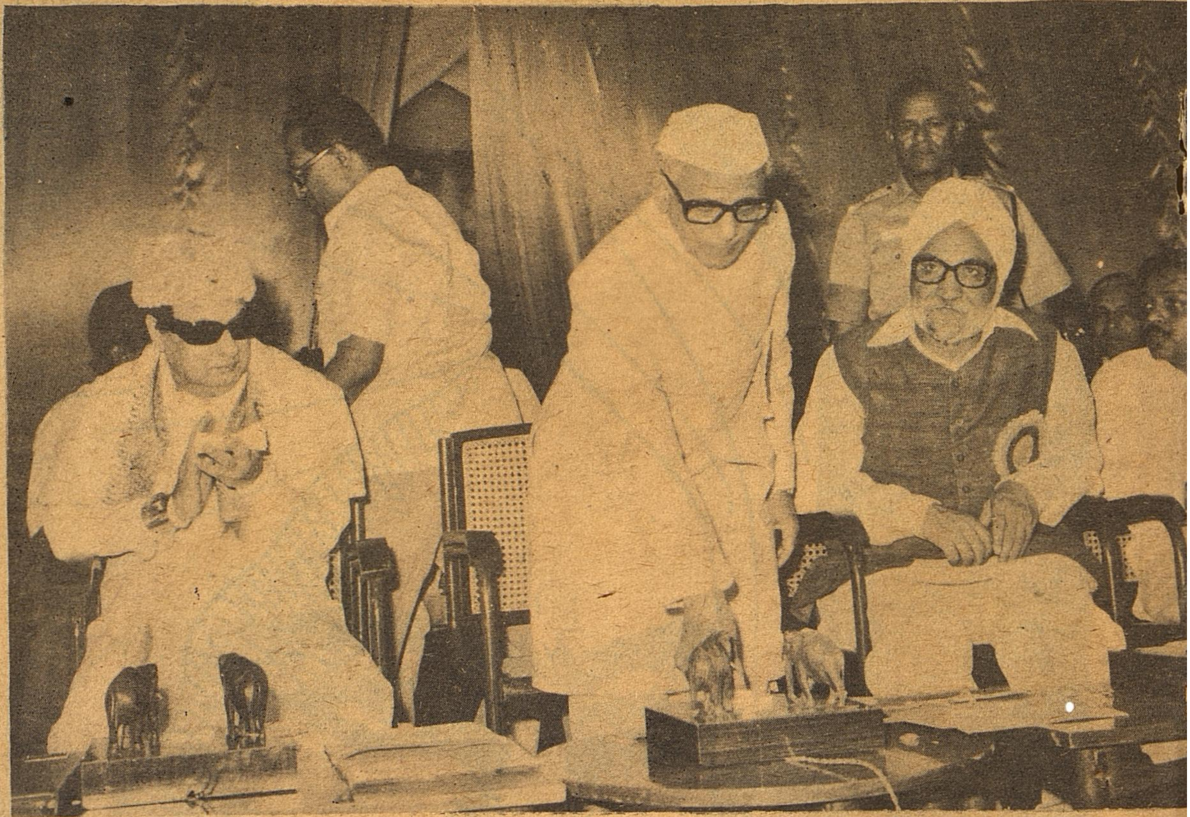


Bharati BELONGS to Humanity

Thiru Sadiq Ali,
Governor of Tamil Nadu.

I am greatly honoured by the invitation to associate myself with the Centenary Celebrations of a great poet Tamil Nadu has produced and who is now widely acclaimed as the poet of modern India.

Thirty - nine years is a short life and yet Bharati packed into these years memorable achievements each of which alone and by itself could have lent distinction to his life. He lived in a creative period of our recent history when India was bravely struggling to free herself from many bondages and produced great men who saw visions of a new, resurgent India. There were many among them who concentrated exclusively on ending the foreign bondage or reforming social evils or reviving in any particular field the beauty and strength of ancient Indian culture. But there were some among them whose interests were much wider, who chafed under many bondages and Subramanya Bharati was essentially a poet but a poet with a purpose, a vision and deep passion. His vision of a new India, in fact his vision of a new humanity found eloquent expression in his poetry. His poetic compositions strirredalike the common people as well as what might be called the elitist section of society. They did so because the language was simple and direct and there was great intensity of feeling and much clarity of thought.

He was closely identified with India's struggle for freedom but he had also intense sympathy with struggles for freedom going on in some other parts of the world. An additional impetus to India's struggle also came to him from his contemplation of India's rich and varied cultural heritage. He was immersed in India's ancient thought and literature but he was equally at home with modern thoughts and literature.

1882 to 1921, the life span of Subramanya Bharati was, despite our bondage, one of the most creative periods of India's history. This was the time when Indian nationalism gained in strength and a party was born which pledged itself to work for the country's freedom through constitutional and later through peaceful means. Before Gandhiji appeared on the scene there were leaders like Tilak and Aurobindo who talked in terms of mass action and active resistance. Subramanya Bharati roused the people in the South through the medium of Tamil poetry apart from his journalistic and other activities. He lisped in numbers even in his early days. Verses came to him naturally. Even the common occurrences of life called into action his poetic gifts. But when the call of India's freedom rang in his ears and when he contrasted the fall of his countrymen with the splendour

of India's ancient past and the astounding progress made in some parts of the world his poetic genius came into full play. Good causes stirred the depths in him. A unique flow of poetic compositions from his pen in turn roused his country-men. Subramanya Bharati knew Sanskrit, English and later he also picked up Hindi. He was fascinated by a good deal of English poetry. This was one factor in the development of his poetic talents.

Bharati's emphasis on national unity is valid for all time. Though he was full of praise for Tamil, he rose above linguistic chauvinism. He showed his highest respect to all the towering national leaders of those times belonging to different parts of the country by composing biographical poems on them and popularising them in the South. Even Sikh Gurus, like Nanak and Govind Singh, received this poetical honour. He stood for religious unity. Bharati was a prophet of our Freedom and though he did not live to witness its dawn, he composed a song which made men, women and children sing and dance in joy on the attainment of Freedom. The cause of the desperately poor did not escape his attention in his poems. His pithy aphoristic sayings and rhymes for the children injected hope and courage into the blood of the younger generation. I have dwelt a little on some themes of his poems only to stress the fact that Subramanya Bharati has relevance to successive generationsin building the India of our dreams.

With all his love for his motherland he was not blind to the evils of the Indian society. He denounced in burning words the evil of untouchability. He was a passionate advocate of women's rightsand their due place in soceity.

Bharati was also a great journalist and a prose writer. He filled the columns of his journals with much informative material. He drew inspiration from struggles for freedom in other countries. He translated plenty of good English material into Tamil. He thought in world terms in many matters of human welfare. Nearer home he was a great advocate of communal harmony, in particular harmony among Hindus and Muslims.

Tamil Nadu, particularly its Chief Minister, has taken the initiative to celebrate the birth centenary of Subramanya Bharati, but Bharati very much belongs to India, in fact, the whole humanity. He has enriched world thought through his great contributions. The literature he has left behind has to be preserved and popularised. It represents a great contribution to Tamil thought and literature. His wide and catholic outlook should be a stirring example to us all who have still to stuggle with all that makes man narrow, small and intolerant .His palce in the history of India's struggle for freedom has to be properly assessed. His humanism and international outlook are a crying need of the kind of world in which we are living and which is shaping before our very eyes. It is our singular good fortune that we are privileged to participate in his centenary celebrations and draw inspiration from his life and thought.

(Excerpts from the Governor's speech)

'Here flourish a thousand castes,
but no room for foreigners,
The Mother's children may quarrel
Yet they are brothers.
We'll bow to the Mother.

What is life without unity?
Division only spells ruin
If we hold fast to this truth
What more can we need?
We'll bow to the Mother."

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran presided over the birth Centenary Celebrations of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

VISIONARY WHO LOOKED AT THE FUTURE

The Chief Minister announced that the State Government would form a university exclusively for women before the end of 1982.

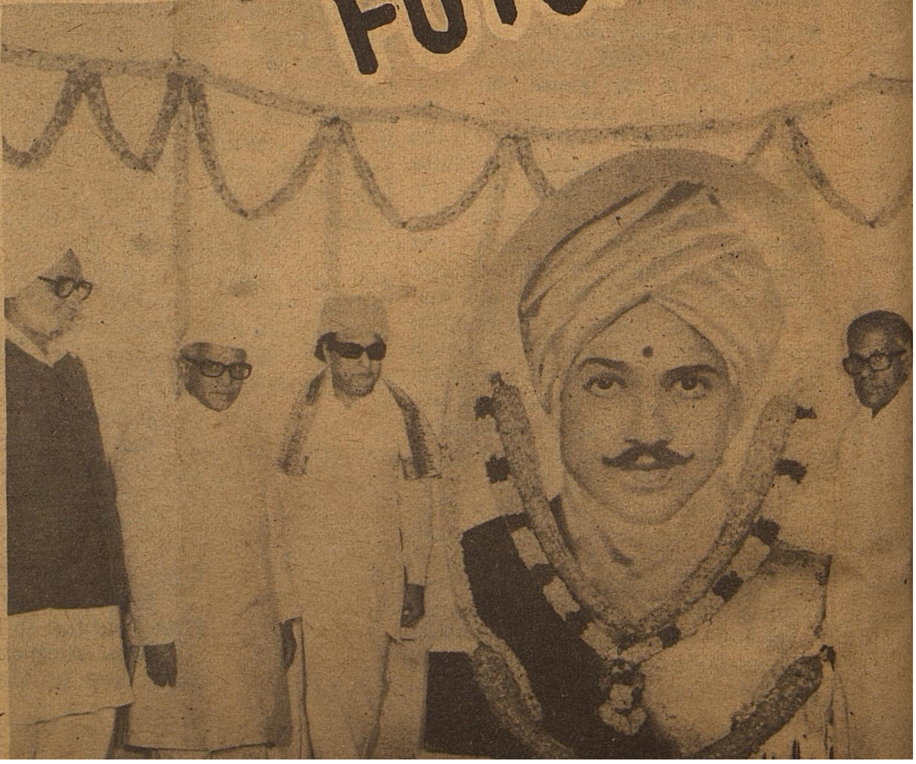
He said the State Government would observe the birthday of poet Bharati as National integration Day every year.

The Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Chief Ministers had requested the help of the State Government for conducting the Bharati centenary celebrations in their States. Tamil Nadu would give them all necessary help.

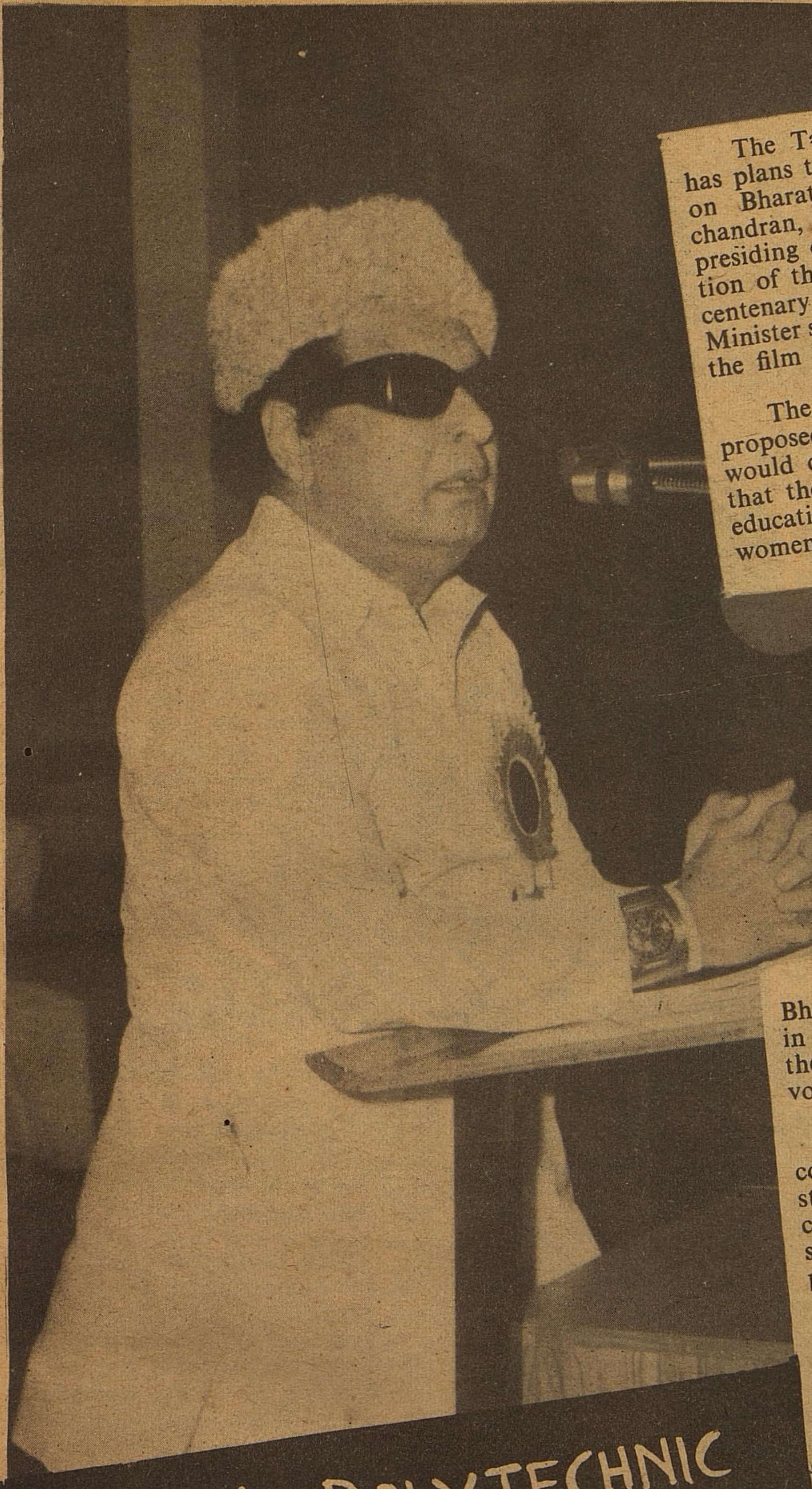
The Chief Minister dwelt at length on the social philosophy of Bharati, particularly his views on the emancipation of women. He recalled how the poet had expressed his views openly when people did not have the courage even to think about them. He was a visionary who looked at the future.

The Chief Minister sought the cooperation of all for the State Government's welfare schemes.

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, presented to Thiru Sadiq Ali, and Thiru Darbara Singh, Tanjore art plates with Bharati's figure engraved in them as also palm leaf manuscripts inscribed with the poet's writings.



WOMEN'S POLYTECHNIC as visualised by Bharati



The Tamil Nadu Government has plans to produce a feature film on Bharati, Thiru M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister said while presiding over the valedictory function of the three day Bharati birth centenary celebrations. The Chief Minister said he himself would direct the film 'if time permits.'

The Chief Minister said the proposed university for women would come into being in 1982 so that the poet's desire for adequate educational opportunities for women was translated into action.

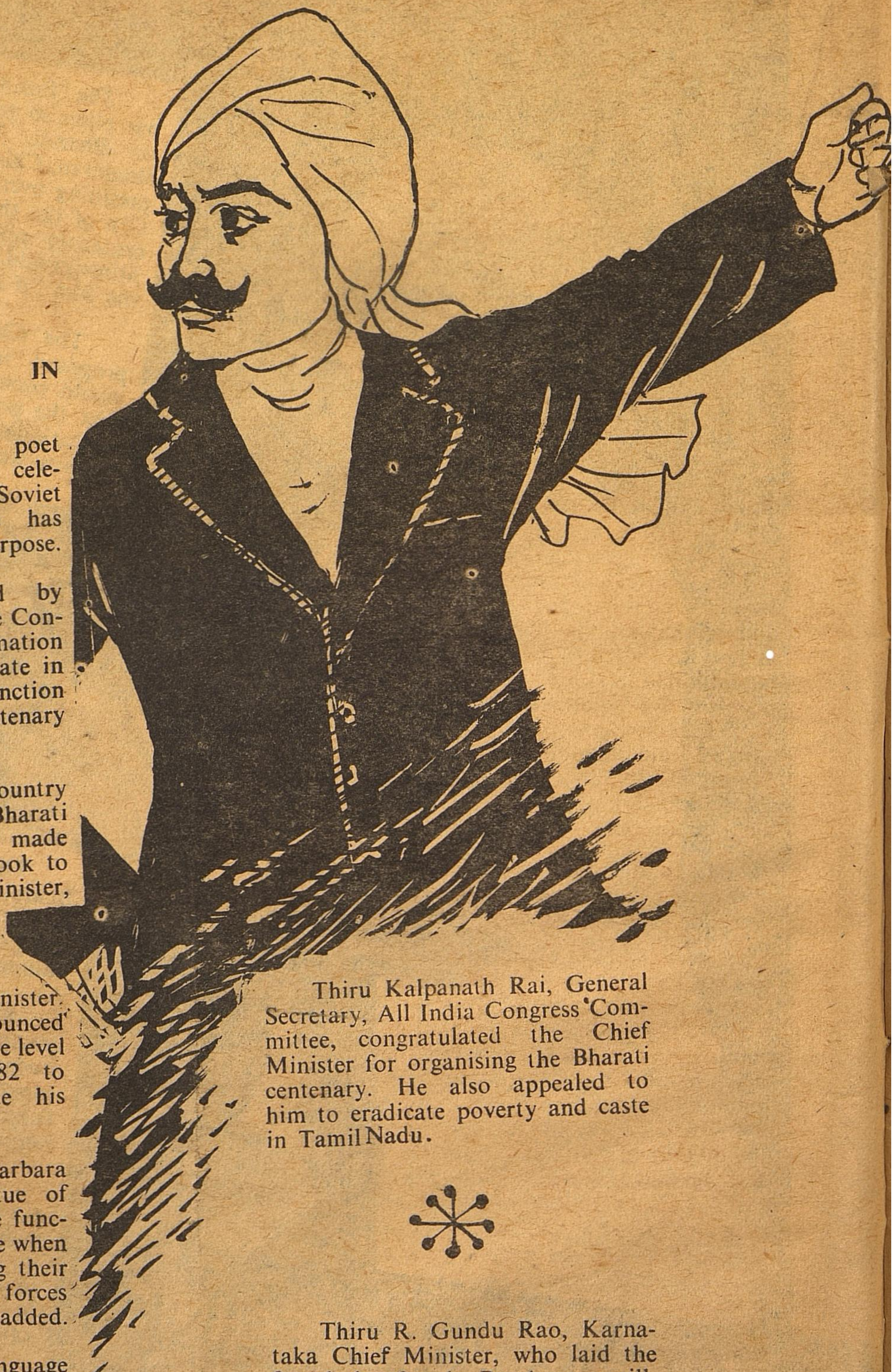
The Chief Minister said Bharati fellowships would be created in all universities in the State and the poet's works brought in three volumes in various languages.

Elocution and essay writing competitions for school and college students besides the physically handicapped would be held annually on subjects dear to the poet to perpetuate his memory.

Women's polytechnic for Ettayapuram : He said a women's polytechnic would be set up in Ettayapuram. Preference would be given to the local people for employment in the Bharati Cooperative Spinning Mills being set up there.

Some of the co-educational high schools would be converted into exclusive girls high schools, he said.

The Chief Minister said that it was unfortunate the works of great leaders were recognised only after their death. He regretted that the good deeds done by living persons were not recognised during their life time. That was the reason why celebrations had to be taken after the death of the persons, he added.



BHARATI CENTENARY IN U.S.S.R.

The birth centenary of poet Subramania Bharati will be celebrated in various parts of the Soviet Union. A special committee has been constituted for that purpose.

This was announced by Thiru Yuri F. Runov, Vice Consul and Head of the Information branch of the USSR Consulate in Madras, at the valedictory function of the three day Bharati Centenary Celebrations.

The Vice Consul said his country would donate a library to Bharati Mandap in Ettayapuram and made a token presentation of a book to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran.

The Punjab Chief Minister, Thiru Darbara Singh announced that Punjab would hold a State level centenary function in 1982 to honour Bharati and propagate his message of integration.

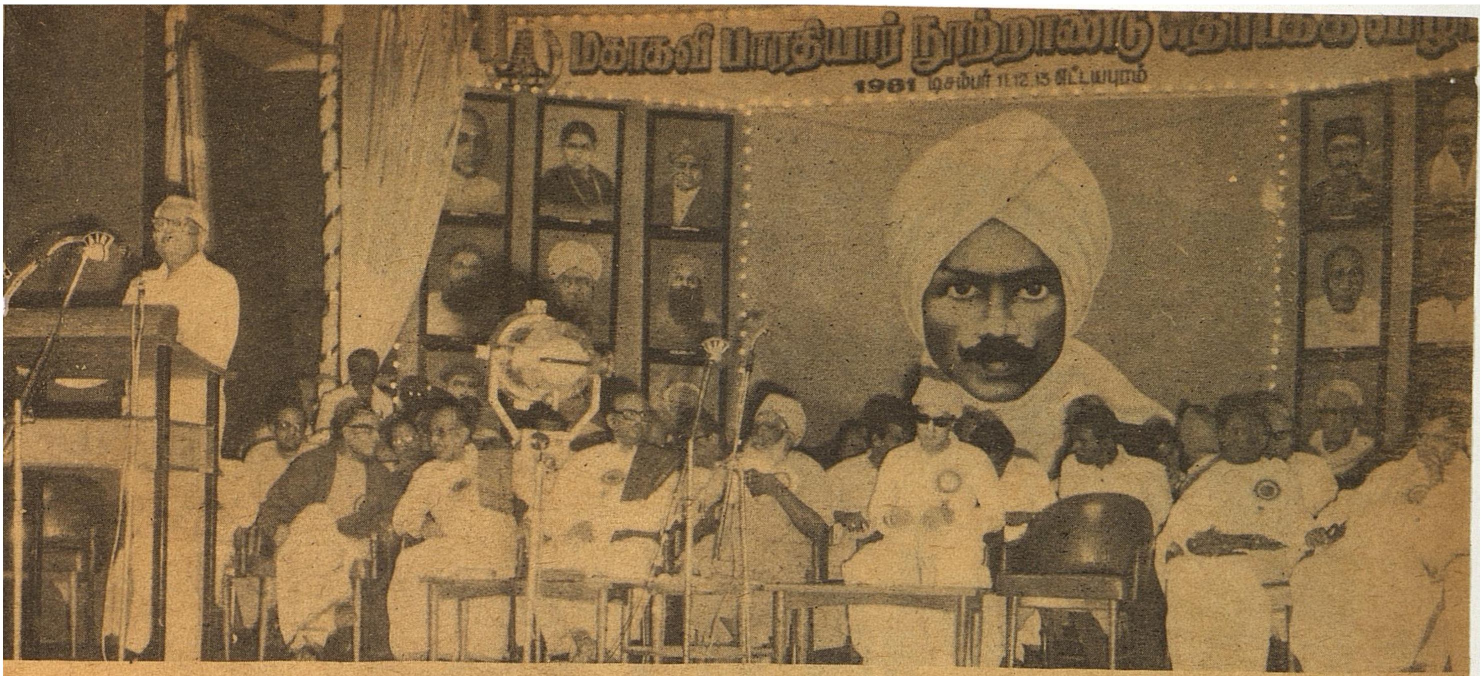
Thiru Darbara Singh who unveiled a statue of Bharathi was happy that the function was taking place at a time when disruptive forces were raising their heads. We should encourage forces promoting integration, he added.

Literature of one language should be translated in other Indian languages as it would put an end to conflicts on account of languages.

The people of Punjab value the great contribution of Tamil Nadu towards national culture, art and similar finer aspects of life, Thiru Darbara Singh said.

Thiru Kalpanath Rai, General Secretary, All India Congress Committee, congratulated the Chief Minister for organising the Bharati centenary. He also appealed to him to eradicate poverty and caste in Tamil Nadu.

Thiru R. Gundu Rao, Karnataka Chief Minister, who laid the foundation for the Rs. 4 crore mill, enthratted the audience by his speech in Tamil, said that living great men were seldom remembered in the country. The idea of the celebrations, he said, was to follow the ideals for which Bharati dedicated his life.



Bharathi's works in other Languages

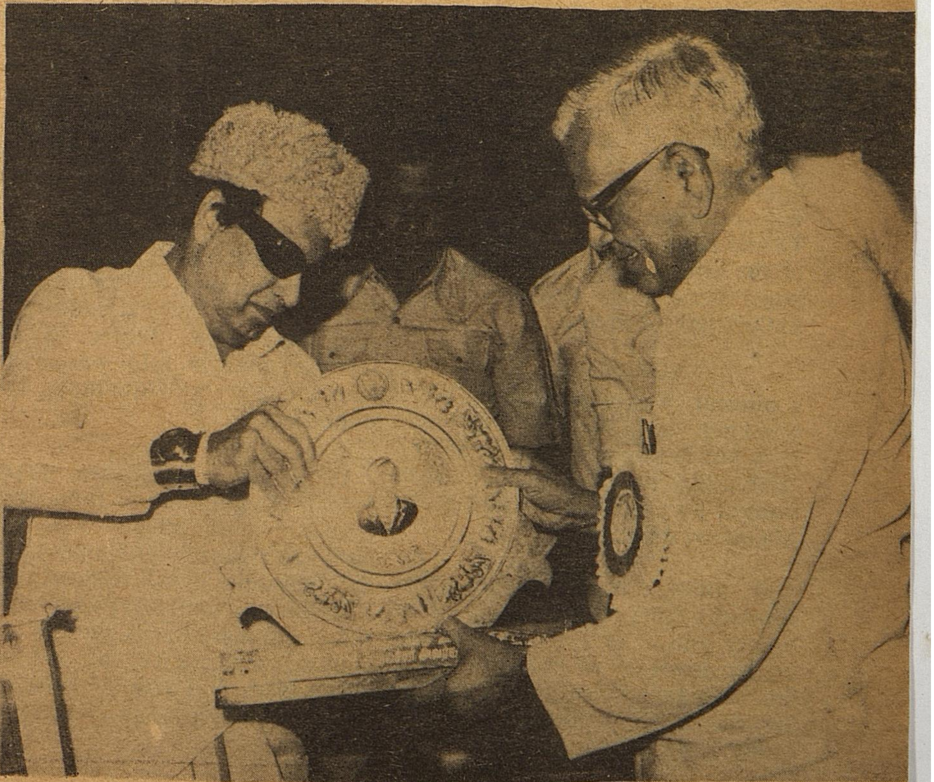
The Central Government would launch measures for translating and publishing the poetical works and other writings of Sri Subramania Bharati, who inspired the people in the freedom struggle, Thiru R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister said, while inaugurating the Forum of Bharati's Thoughts on the second day of the poet's centenary celebrations.

He said to begin with the works of Bharati would be published in Bengali, Gujarati, Marati and Hindi.

He recalled that when he accompanied Thiru Kamaraj to USSR they were informed that Bharati's writings had been translated and published in Russian and arrangements had been made to dsseminate them.

Thiru Venkataraman said that the dreams of the poet in industrial and agricultural fronts were being realised in Tamilnadu. Setting up of a steel plant at Salem, the Avadi tank factory and the proposal for a Rs. 200 crore paper mills were some of the steps in this direction. He appealed to the people to get inspiration from Bharati's works to fulfil his dream of a socialistic society. Bharati believed in equality and freeing the masses from exploitation.

Thiru Venkataraman said that if Gandhiji spread the idea that freedom would be won without bloodshed, it was Bharati who inspired the people and prepared them for a spirit of sacrifice. Bharati not only wanted the country to become free but desired that the Indian society should shape itself in an ideal way in which there would be no disparities and everyone would have equal opportunity to bloosom fully. He went to the extent of singing that the world should be destroyed even if one person were to starve.



THE BEGINNING OF A CULTURAL RENAISSANCE

Pattam Srirama Murthy,
Minister for Cultural Affairs, Andhra Pradesh.

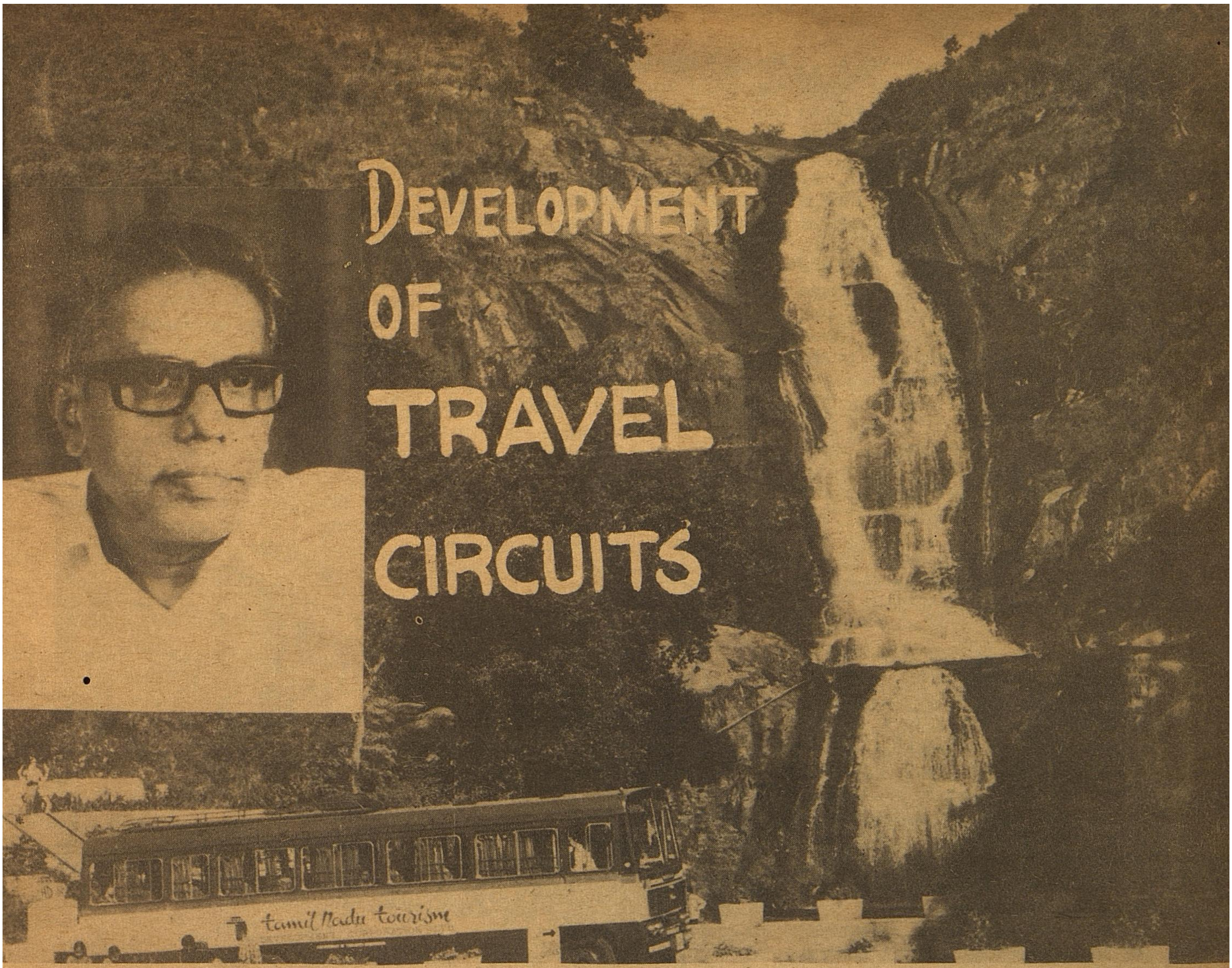
It is but fitting that my Tamil brethern should have chosen to observe an year -long centenary celebrations of a great Bard of Tamil Nadu, Mahakavi Bharathi. I look upon this as a significant event, nay a unique event not for the Tamils alone, but for all the people of the South as well as India. In a larger sense, Poet Bharati belongs to the whole of Bharat

Subramania Bharati was a pioneer in exploiting the muse in breaking the shakles of servitude. It is but fitting that the Tamils are celebrating the Centenary Celebrations of a great Bard of Tamil Nadu, Mahakavi Bharati.

A multi-faceted personality, Bharati's fame rests not only on his poetry and other writings but also on his advocacy of nationalism and his wide experience as a journalist. He was a fiery poet patriot. Profound with patriotism, his poems were simple in language but stirring in content. Verily, he was the first people's poet. His passion-filled patriotic poems enthused the people to take part in direct action during the freedom struggle. His poems spotlighted the glory of our motherland, the greatness of Tamil language the rising tide of nationalism and the independent future in store for the country. He was a poet who thought and wrote much ahead of his time.

In all his writings he, yearned for an integrated India and exhorted his countrymen to give up regional rivalries. His message for national unity is still relevant today. The Bharati Centenary Celebrations therefore mark the begin ing of a cultural renaissance, of not only Tamil Nadu but also the wide spectrum of the South and an integrated India.

The striking simplicity of his approach, the clarion call of his message and his inspiring vision of the future have all made an impact, an impact that was immediate and enduring. His poems centered on one great theme of the day-th liberation of his country and the salvation of his people. So he roused his countrymen through the medium of versification, a soul-stirring medium. For the first time, it was Bharathi who brought the nuances of poetry to the doorstep of the commonman, as it were. His theme was very patriotic. His style was very simple and his poems were very musical. At the turn of the century and decades thereafter, they were on the lips of almost everyone in this part of the country.



Development of Travel Circuits

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues from other States and other participants:

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this Conference and to convey to all the delegates the greetings and good wishes of the respected Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.

At this stage I would like to make some general comments in the light of the Agenda of the Conference and the statements made yesterday.

On the *development of Travel Circuits*, our Government welcomes and supports this approach. The Department of Tourism of the Government of India under the able leadership of Thiru A.P. Sharma deserve our congratulations for this initiative. We in the State of Tamilnadu have already been following this approach of selecting places of tourist importance and concentrating resources for their development along easily traversed routes for the convenience of tourists. The blue-prints and other details that were asked for by the Government of India have been made available. It is now time for action.

It was our expectation that having initiated this programme and obtained from the State Governments numerous details, the Government of India would extend assistance for its implementation. From the statements made by my colleagues yesterday, it was clear that other State Governments too had similar expectations. It comes, therefore, as a matter of regret and surprise that, judging by the notes it has circulated, the Government of India wishes to wash its hand off this programme at this stage, treating its implementation as entirely the responsibility of the States. Our calculations in regard to Tamilnadu show that resources available to the State are but a fraction of the requirements to implement the circuit plans. The allocation for Tourism in the State Plan during the 6th Plan period is only Rs. 8 crores as compared to about Rs. 60 crores required to build and improve the infrastructure for the three approved Travel Circuits. We have, in addition, to take care of a number of other schemes already included in the tourism sector of the State, within this limited allocation. The requirements for improving just three of the major international tourist centres in the State, namely, Kannyakumari, Rameswaram and Mamallapuram works out to Rs. 54 crores. This being the case, we will have to find ways and means to muster the large amount of fund required

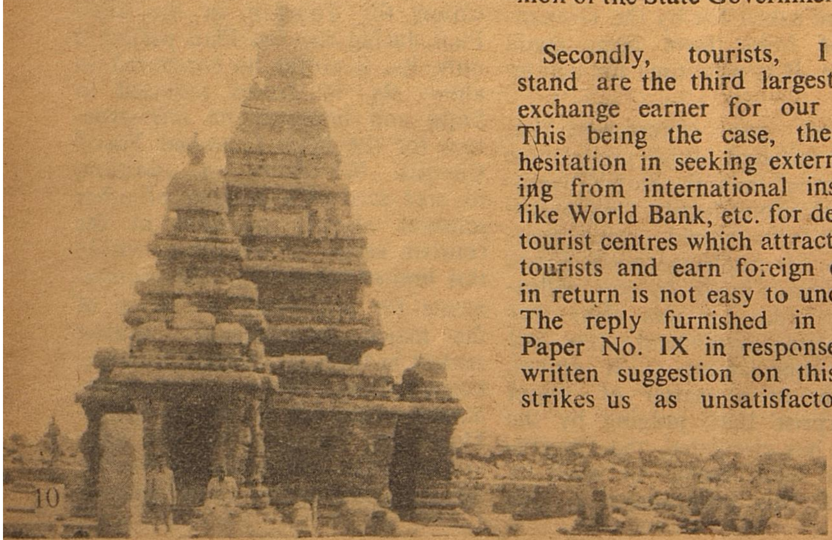
for implementation of these plans as the State resources alone would not be sufficient to fund these development plans. The position is not likely to be very different for the other States. We have to find a way out of this impasse if our targets and plans for tourism development are not to become empty dreams. I would like to make a concrete suggestion here. A special scheme should be evolved outside the Plans, on the pattern of the Hill Area Development Programme and the Western Ghats Development programme, to provide Central assistance for the implementation of the Travel Circuit Plans. If my colleageus agree with this suggestion, a resolution for taking up such scheme immediately may be passed at this Conference in order to strengthen the Department of Tourism to get it through the rest of the Government of India machinery.

As part of the development of Travel Circuit Plans, it is also necessary to speed up and expand the *Third Line Feeder Service*. In selecting places for the Third Line Feeder Services, their tourism potential should be the deciding criteria, rather than any extraneous conditions. May I make a practical suggestion in this context? There are a number of abandoned airfields constructed during war time in our State, which, if renovated, can serve important tourist centres like Rameswaram, Thanjavur, and Tirunelveli. Such places should be given priority while planning the Third line Feeder Services so as to minimise the investment required to develop the runway and the airports. While on the subject of air services, may I reiterate our long-pending request to route at least some of the services to Bangkok-Hong Kong-Tokyo, via Madras? We would also like to suggest that charter services should be encouraged and allowed to land at Madras with a view to attracting the tourist influx that now stops at Colombo. These measures would help to promote tourism in all the States in the Southern Region.

On the question of *Central Assistance*, I would like to make two further suggestions. *Firstly* development of Central resources among the States for tourism promotion should be based on the tourism potential and the resources that each State Government mobilizes for this sector, and not on the usual criteria such as population and per-capita income. It would be desirable to lay-down such criteria of assistance without leaving the distribution process to be influenced by lobbying or the political complexion of the State Government.

Secondly, tourists, I understand are the third largest foreign exchange earner for our country. This being the case, the present hesitation in seeking external funding from international institutions like World Bank, etc. for developing tourist centres which attracts foreign tourists and earn foreign exchange in return is not easy to understand. The reply furnished in Position Paper No. IX in response to our written suggestion on this subject strikes us as unsatisfactory and rather peremptory. We are aware that international financing institutions sanction loans for projects rather than for sectors as such. The question is why economically viable tourism projects, with a capacity to generate foreign exchange cannot be submitted for the consideration of appropriate international financing institutions. The priority accorded to this sector, in deed rather than in words, should be judged by the willingness to mobilize resources from, all sources, including external sources. If my other colleagues agree, we might pass a resolution on the subject to the Conference so as, once again to strengthen the Central Department of Tourism in pursuing matters with other concerned Ministries in the Government of India.

As regards *domestic tourism*, the Tamilnadu Government fully appreciates the need to provide budget accommodation. Not all the foreign tourists are affluent and we must cater also to budget tourists from abroad. Moreover such accommodation would also serve the domestic tourists. We are quite proud of our achievements in Tamilnadu in this regard. The Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation runs a chain of 17 hotels and motels that are meant for the budget tourists. The tariff charged is well within the reach of middle income groups of domestic tourists. We have now gone a step further and are constructing a chain of 9 Youth Hostels which provide dormitory accommodation at a very nominal rate of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7.50 per bed per night. One hostel has already



been commissioned and more 5 hostels are waiting to be opened soon and the remaining will be got ready in the next 2 months. Our experience from the first hostel in this chain at Yercaud shows that the per centage of occupance is as high as 60 to 70%, even within the first 3 months of its operation. While on this point, let me add that we have taken note of the setting up of the Bharathia Yathir Akas Vikas Samithi and its plans to build yathri Nivas. Our Youth Hostel construction programme serves precisely the same purpose. I would like to suggest that the pattern of assistance given to the Samithi should also be extended to all State Tourism Development Corporations engaged in programmes of constructing Youth Hostels.

The concept of *Tourist Villages*, as outlined in the Agenda notes, is welcome. The Tamilnadu Government would be happy to provide appropriate facilities for the setting up of such villages in select Centres. In this connection, we would like to bring to the notice of this Conference, that we are already acting on a similar programme as part of the development of Mamallapuram. A Camping Site has been developed with a complex of a Youth Hostel, a number of tents and a few cottages. It includes a restaurant and we intend also providing suitable recreational facilities. An Open Air Museum, depicting development of temple architecture and other historical and cultural attractions is also being planned nearby. The entire complex is expected to cost about Rs. 50 lakhs. We are confident that with all these facilities and attractions, we would be able to draw more tourist traffic ,particularly of international tourists, by road to Mamallapuram from Madras and elsewhere.

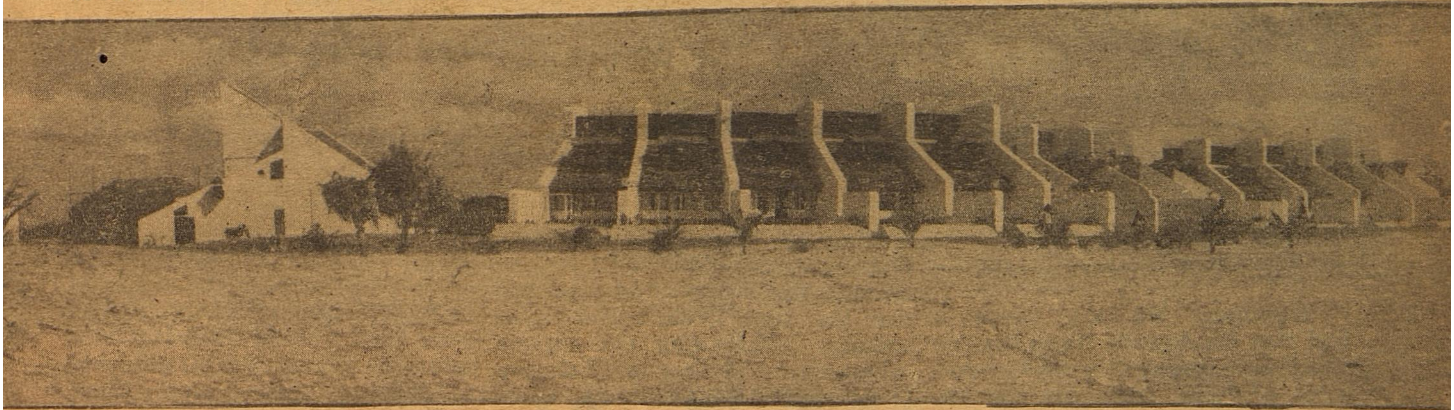
On the general question of *provision of facilities* to tourists, attention needs to be given for improving rail services in coordination with air and road transport. The 'Indrail' passes are now well advertised in other countries. However, there seems to be a number of short comings which leave the users somewhat dissatisfied. There are similar complaints in regard to customs and immigration formalities right at the point of entry into the country for foreign tourists. The specific problems in regard to one major tourist Centre in Tamilnadu, namely Rameswaram were high lighted sometime back in a joint report of the Central and State Tourism Department. Action to rectify the defects needs to be pursued vigorously. It might be advisable to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Tourism in order to tackle existing problems of inadequate coordination and unsatisfactory services, so that all the relevant Departments make a concerted effort to serve the all important national cause of promoting tourism.

Regarding *All India Permits*, a reference has been made to the issue of permits to operaters who are not in the travel trade. Presently, priority is due to applicants in the travel trade, namely Tourism Development Corporations, travel agents, tour operators, etc. I would like to suggest that existing regulations may be re-examined to see whether we could amend the Act to make applicants of the above categories alone eligible for the All India permits. I have a further suggestion to make that there should be a separate and liberal quota for the State Tourism Corporations, so that the problem of mis-use can be avoided.

In the matter of *Package Tours*, it is a matter of some pride for me that the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) has in some ways proved a pioneer in organising Package Tours. The TTDC activities have already covered all-inclusive, 7-day, Package Tours and excursion tours covering important tourist centres in Tamilnadu and in the neighbouring States. These tours serve a large number of foreign tourists, and accordingly TTDC has recently appointed overseas selling agents in Singapore and Malaysia for these Package Tours. TTDC foreign exchange earnings have gone up four times as a result .The Corporation needs more All India permits to expand its services not only for the overseas visitors but also for the domestic-low-income group tourists.

In regard to the *Tourist Services*, we have set up a chain of tourist Information Centres numbering 20, not only at the Airports but also at the important railway stations and popular tourist centres. These Information Centres not only answer enquiries, but also render positive assistance to the tourists who are stranded for some reason or the other and those who are forced with other problems. To enable us to expand this net-work of Information Centres, we feel that the Government of India should also come forward with a special scheme to meet a portion of the cost of establishing and running them.

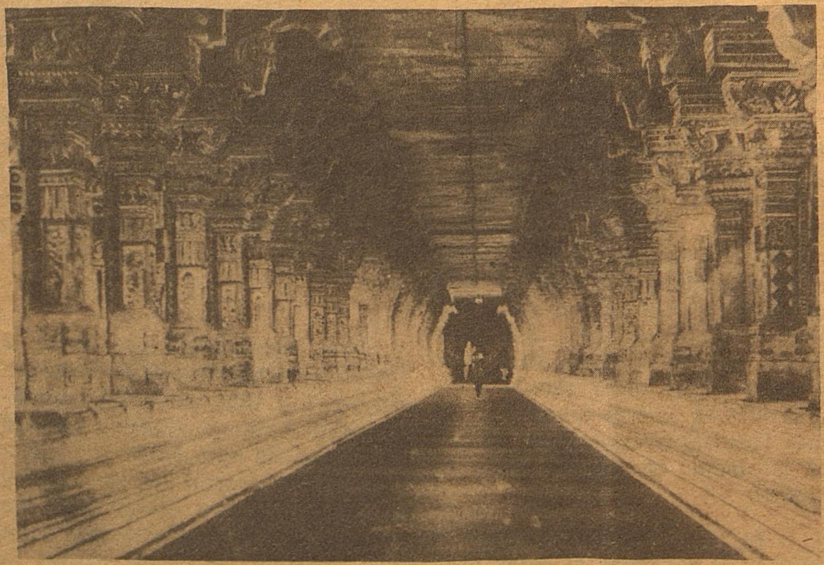
The suggestion to form a *Tourist Complaints Cell* is welcome. But we feel that we should simultaneously have an effective method to redress the complaints promptly. This would depend on our ability to punish wrong -doers and the touts. Our Government has been contemplating legislative action to



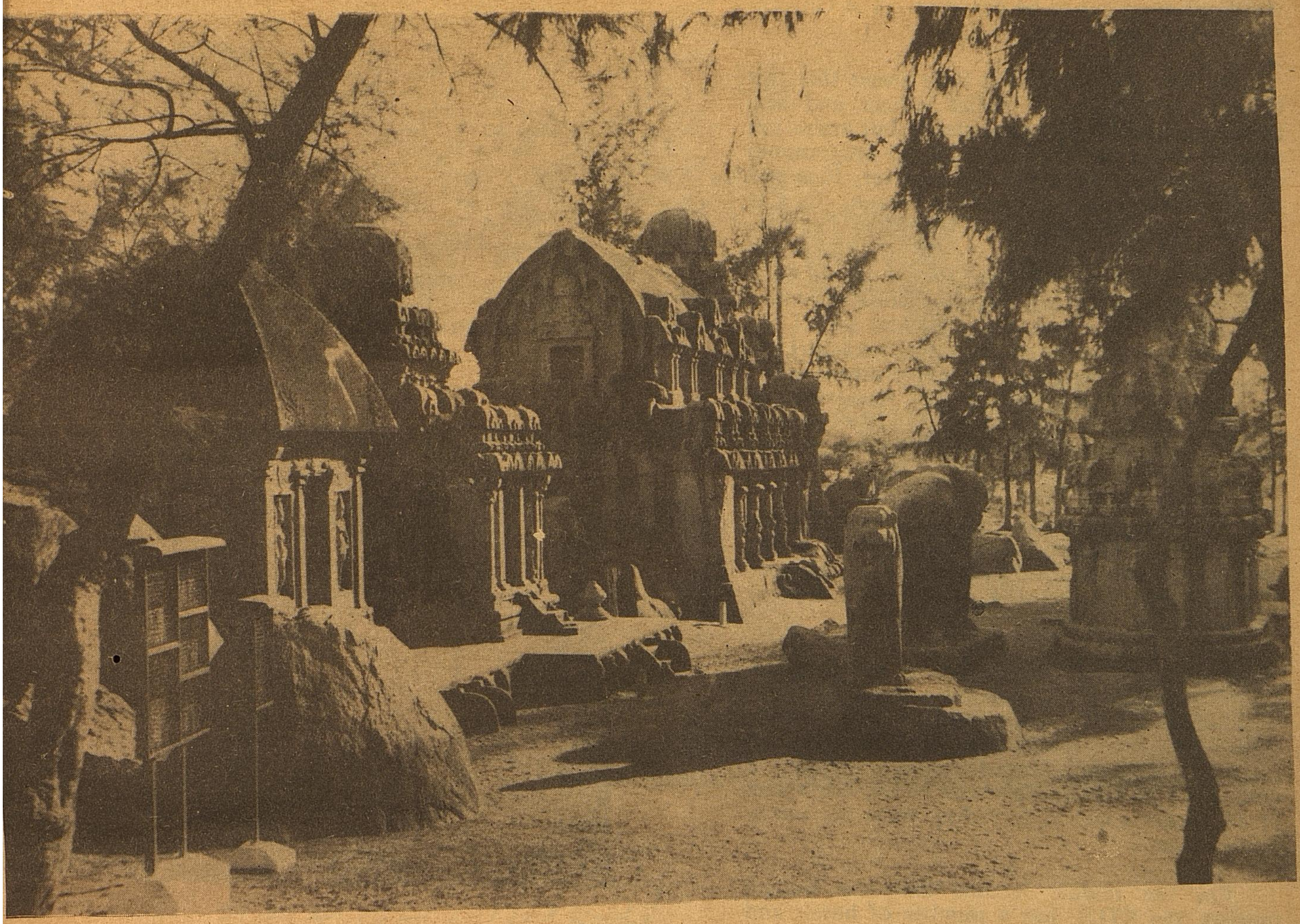
meet this need and we would welcome suggestions of the States and of the Government of India, in this regard.

Incentives: We are happy to find that the Agenda Notes for this Conference prepared by the Government of India recognizes the important role that the private sector can and should play in tourism development. A package of incentives should be worked out to enable private entrepreneurs to invest more in this sector. Let me assure the Conference that the Tamilnadu Government will do all that is possible to provide the necessary incentives, consistent with its resources. The Agenda Notes suggest that the State Governments may consider withdrawing the various taxes imposed by them on the earning of the Hotels. We would like to be enlightened as to whether the Government of India propose to withdraw the 15% Hotel Receipt Tax that it is levying on this Industry.

Before concluding, I would like to emphasize a point which is crucial to this entire Conference, namely the priority that the Government of India attaches to the tourism sector. Whether it is the matter of these taxes, or grant of concessional loans from Central financing institutions, or seeking external assistance or allocations in the Annual Plans, a clear-cut priority for this sector is now lacking. Until this policy changes, no break-through in the pace of tourism development will be achieved. We will be merely meeting periodically and passing pious resolutions. It is our hope that this Conference, unlike its predecessors, will pave the way for such a break-through. Our Government strongly believes that rapid tourism development in the country calls for a combined partnership approach between the Centre and the States, and between the public sector and the private sector. The Tamilnadu Government is willing and ready to carry its share of this National task, and looks forward to furitful collaboration with other States and with the Centre.



[Speech delivered by Thiru R. M. Veerappan Minister for Information and Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, at the Tourism Ministers' Conference, New Delhi on 2-12-81]



A TOURIST Haven

Tourism has assumed the proportion of a "big biz" in Tamil Nadu. Every year the rush is on the increase both inland and foreign. What step is the State Tourism Department taking to cope with it ? What are its future plans ? This article, based on a question and answer session between Thiru. Tamal Kanti Ghosh, Administrative Officer, North Indian Patrika and the State Tourism Minister, Thiru R. M. Veerappan, provides the answer.

Tourism is up in India, so it is in Tamil Nadu, as in Haryana and in a big way too. Tamil Nadu is amply endowed with everything to offer the tourists and the State Government is fully exploiting this. The result has been a 20 percent increase in the flow of foreign tourists in the last three years and in 1980 the peak of 2.25 lakh tourists was reached.

What has the present M. G. R. Government done to attract tourists to the State ? One has to admit that a lot has been done in the last four years. To meet the tourists' demand and attract more, the annual budget on this head has been increased from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 109 lakhs

during this period. Yet it is not a tourists' haven, and a lot more has to be achieved. The Government too admits this.

But the Government is fully aware that this industry is a potential dollar winner and has, therefore, embarked upon a steady but ambitious plan to widen the net with package programmes and amenities. In doing so, however, it is not ignoring, like most of the other States, the low budget domestic tourists.

The State abounds in hill stations, game sanctuaries, beaches, ancient temples, religious centres and modern cities and above all has one of the attractive spots in the country Kanyakumari the land's end. Immediately the Government plans to develop Mammallapuram, Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Udhgamandalam, Kodaikanal, Pichavaram, Yercaud and a few other places into international tourists centres.

What are the facilities being offered by the M. G. R. Government for the tourists ? It has developed road transport and has built a number of hotels and motels, all furnished with modern amenities.

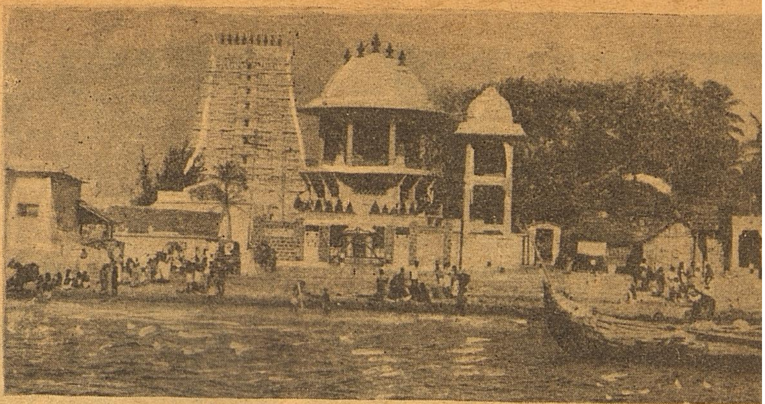
For the well to do tourists, the Tourism Department has at its disposal a chain of hotels run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation and the Indian Tourism Development Corporation. Apart from these there are a number of private hotels. The STDC has a fleet of 17 luxury coaches, including three air conditioned ones.

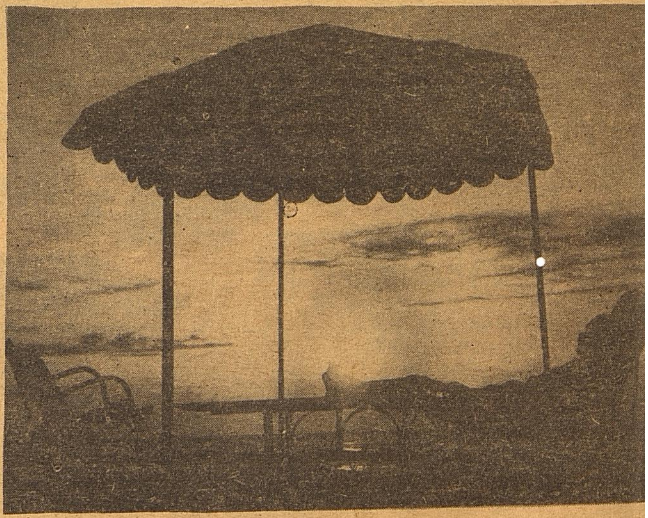
For the middle income and low budget tourists, the STDC has a number of hotels and motels. Apart from these, there is a chain of youth hostels at 9 or 10 places and as many are coming up and will be available soon.

For the benefit of the tourists the STDC conducts coach tours by road. These tours have become very popular. Two such tours of seven days each enable you not only to see the tourist spots in Tamil Nadu but the whole of South India. The Corporation's turnover in this respect, which was only Rs. 68.51 lakhs in 1976-77, has gone up to Rs. 164.51 lakhs in 1980-81.

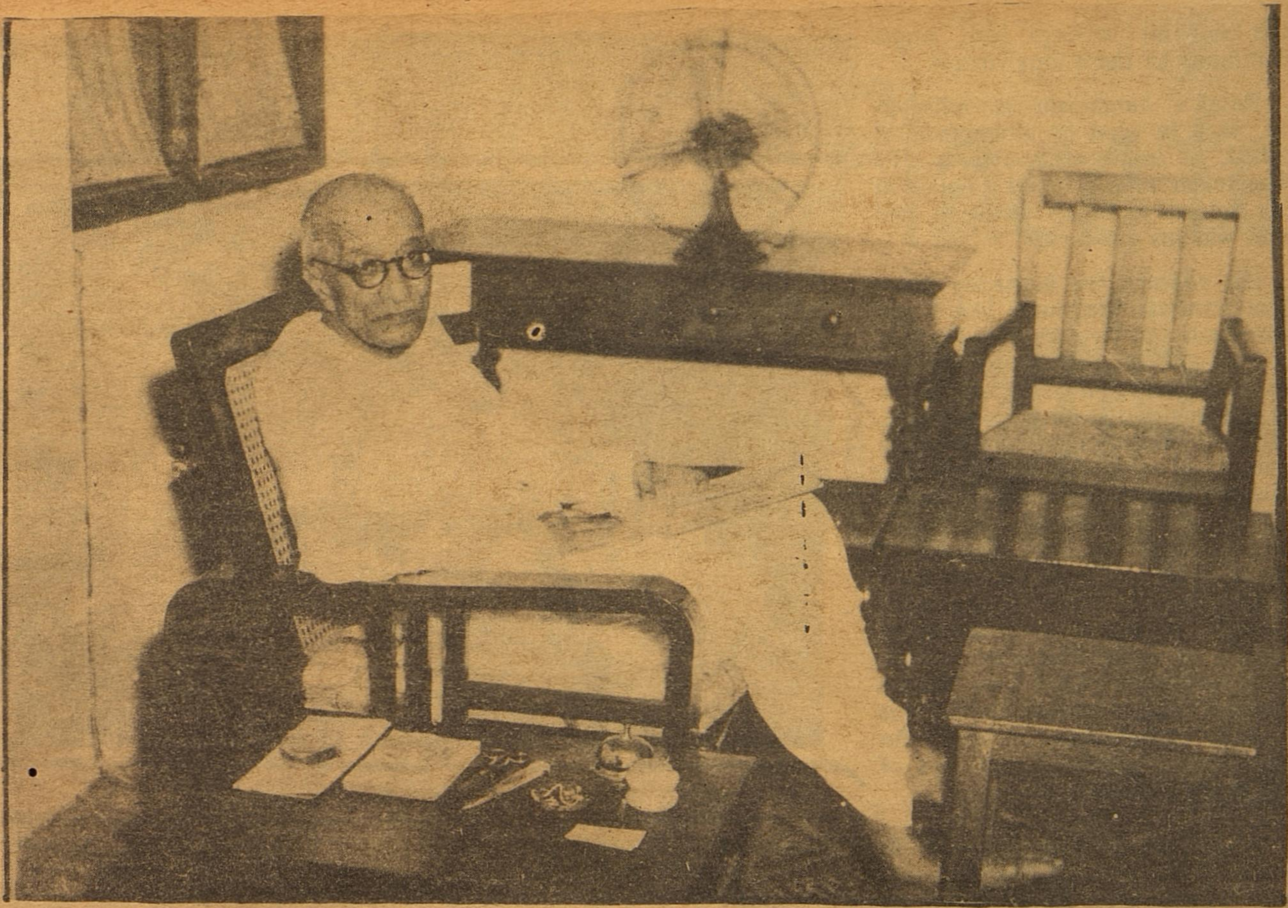
To attract foreign tourists, the Government has been organising 'Destination South India' programmes since 1977 in collaboration with the Government of India and Air India. In this programme select travel writers and journalists are invited from overseas and they write about their tour experiences in their local papers. This venture has been a success and the response is encouraging. What other steps have been taken by way of publicity ? The Department is running 17 tourist information centres, eight tourist offices and is projecting tourist spots through visuals, attractive literature and films.

What are the impediments in foreign travels ? Very few foreign airlines touch Madras; only Singapore Airlines, Air Lanka and Malaysian Airlines flights are supported by two outward flights by Air India to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. The M. G. R. Government has requested the Government of India to route more international flights through Madras airport. If and when this is done the State Government is confident that more foreign tourists will flock to Tamil Nadu. The M. G. R. Government also feels that taking into consideration the importance of Tamil Nadu as a tourist centre, the Government of India and the ITDC investment in the State is far from adequate. If this shortcoming is removed Tamil Nadu can become a tourists' haven and soon.





North Indian Patrika
12-12-1981.



Rajaji's Humanism

Mi. Pa. Somasundaram,
Director,
Traditional Tamil Arts,
Government of Tamil Nadu.

Even though Rajaji was a humanist, his humanism had an individuality, an individuality so characteristic of him that it was not fully visible to the casual eye.

I have often heard people say Rajaji was hard-hearted, cold and unmoving; and that he was all brain and no heart! These prejudices stem out from the fact that he was always against favouritism, favouritism of any kind. He could not be approached for personal favours solely on the ground of individual consideration, without any logical necessity for his intervention, without any justifiable cause for his involvement. In other words, he never allowed his friends to use him for personal gains. Does it mean that he lacked compassion or concern for others?

Rajaji's deep concern for the people was responsible for his plunge into political life which was full of hazards and unexpressed threats in those days. It was due to his humanism that he threw away his lucrative practice at the Salem bar. It was again his humanism in him that compelled him to undertake, in that advanced age, a trip to the United States to meet President Kennedy, to desist from nuclear tests deadly to the human race.

Rajaji's humanism is found clearly expressed in one of his expositions of Isa Upanishad. He explains: "He who practises seeing all other human beings as if they lived within his own body, sees himself as if living in the bodies of others and thereby overcomes all ill-will and aversion. By practising this, a man attains the unity of oneself with all other souls; and all grief automatically disappears." Rajaji practised this Upanishadic humanism through out his life.

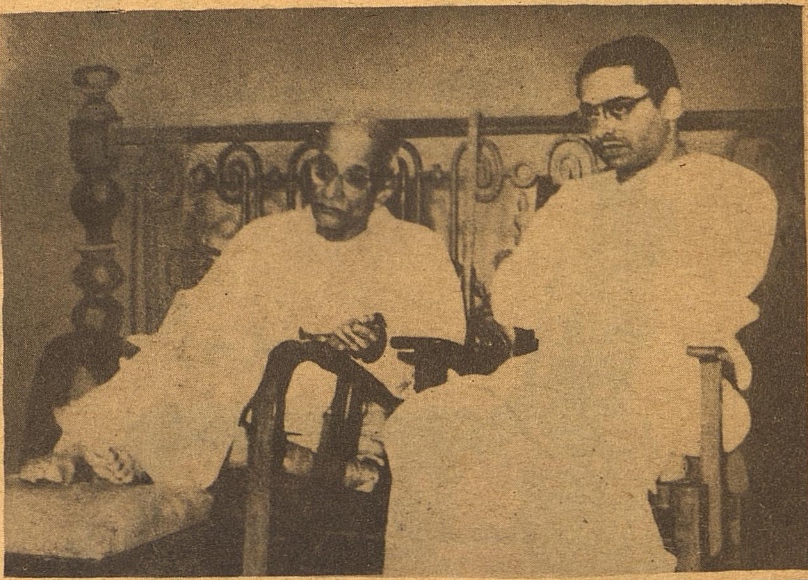
Rajaji's life was a unique life of service, sacrifice, struggle and also fulfilment. He drew sustenance from his intense love of the country and the countrymen. He was always young in mind because he had an abiding interest in the affairs of the human beings in the midst of whom he lived.

A great thinker of the west once defined that a humanist had four leading characteristics viz. curiosity, free mind, belief in good taste and belief in the human race. Rajaji's

life and his writings bear ample testimony to these four virtues.

Rajaji's humanism is reflected as much in what he attempted but failed, as in his achievements. His humanism reflects itself equally in his failures as in his victories; and that was his greatness.

His concern for humanity made him translate Srciptures like Kato-panishads and Tirukkural to English. It also gave him enormous strength to wage many a relentless battle in his long and stormy political life. His unbounded sympathy for the poor and the downtrodden has inspired him to write several short stories and parables. He even brushed aside artistic elegance in many of his stories so that he could directly lead his reader to an aspect of truth or moral or a sentiment worthy of value. His short stories like Annaiyum Pithavum, Kooni Sundari and Devanai depict the pitiable unfortunates in life who need special attention and care of the better -placed in society.



Author with Rajaji

Humanism is not devotion to human interests alone but it is literary culture also. Rajaji stood for causes which can never be lost so long as men seek wisdom and follow righteousness. His life and writings alike march towards the same goal, the uplift of humanity. All that he lived for and all that he wrote were the dual exercise of his humanism and his skill. His humanism was always actively alive to his surroundings and that is why in all his writings we see him linking up the past with the present and the future, in the light of their relevance and application to men and matters of the present. His writings extend to short stories ,fables, political science, chemistry, children's literature, literature for the neo-literates, biography, current affairs, philosophy and the retelling of the Epics. In all these, we see a saintly guide compassionately leading his brethern to eternal values with all their utility and use to the present-day human problems. He is not a writer of fiction in the ordinary sense. He always has a message born out of his humanistic approach, and he wrote to awaken the reader to the needs of a marching society. That is why prohibition, removal of untouchability and evils of corruption and the like are some of the themes he dealt with in his short stories. In his frank and simple preface to his stories Rajaji says, "Most of these stories were written not by one who aspires to be an author but by one who desires to further the public causes in which he is deeply involved. High-brow men may say that stories should be just stories and not propaganda. Let me state categorically that these stories that I have written, most of them, have a human purpose and I claim that this purpose is inevitable and according to me good for my people. I have written these stories for the human causes that hold dear to me."

Well, I think this preface strikes the key note of his humanism in his own words.

Rajaji was unique in his agreement as he was unique in his disagreement, because he was always unique in this humanistic approach to every problem.

The secret of the force in Rajaji's writings was this humanism. He had always the ancient sages firmly installed in his thoughts and spoke with their authenticity giving a certain contemporaneousness fixed from the human angles of relevance and topicality. All his interrogations and interjections in between his narrations reveal not only his ability but his deep compassion and concern for the poor and the desperate.

He never wrote just because he had a plot or an episode to weave a story with. He always derived confidence from the eternal forms of truth and wrote on subjects which he thought would reform his country men for whose cause he served with compassion, skill and zeal. The flawless triumph of his entire life is that he preached what he practised in his life. He spoke into the ear of his age and into the ear of his country with that intimacy born out of practice and conviction. To strike a personal note I must say Rajaji always reminded me of Goldsmith's "The man in black". There have been many occasions when I have seen Rajaji melt into tears. But he was always mighty in his brain to arrest or hide his emotions in public. He was capable of intense love but he was also capable of not showing it out and certainly not exhibiting it!

I only remember those remarkable words of Oliver Goldsmith: "Some affect humanity and tenderness. Others pose of having dispositions from nature but he is the only man I know who seemed ashamed of his natural benevolence!"

These remarkable words of Goldsmith are remarkably true of Rajaji. That is why he always took pains to hide his feelings. However, on unguarded moments I have seen his dark glasses slipping off revealing the tender human being that Rajaji really was!

Pride of Place to HANDLOOMS

R. Varadarajulu, I.A.S.,
Director of Handlooms Textiles, Madras

The new textile policy announced by the Government of India in March 1981 gives a pride of place to the handloom sector under 20 Point Programme and has named it the main clotheir of the nation. The importance given to the handloom industry in Tamilnadu can be gauged from the fact that the outlay for the handloom development schemes has gone up from a level of Rs. 27.82 crores during the Fifth Five Year Plan Period to Rs. 84.58 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan of the State of Tamilnadu.

The following are the highlights of the achievements under the various handloom development programmes

COOPERATIVE COVERAGE OF HANDLOOM

Out of a total of 5.56 lakhs handlooms in the State, 2.70 lakhs handloom (i.e.49%) have so far been brought into the cooperative fold. This State is aiming at a total coverage of 67% by the end of the 6th Plan Period as against the national level target of 60%

SUPPLY OF INPUT

The Government of Tamilnadu have set up a chain of 12 Co-operative Spinning Mills with a total installed capacity of 3.14 lakhs spindles which produce about 7500 bales per mensem of cotton yarn of different counts. Regarding supply of cotton yarn, the coperative sector is being taken care of by the 12 CooperativeSpinningMills in the State. To meet the additional demand for yarn due to the anticipated increase in the Cooperative coverage of handlooms, the Government have initiated measures to set up 3 new Cooperative Spinning Mills with 25000 spindles each at a total cost of Rs. 18 crores and also to expand 3 of the existing mills at a cost of Rs. 9 crores. This programme includes the setting up of a new spinning unit at Ettayapuram in Tirunelveli District synchronising with the Birth Centenary of Poet Bharathi.

PROVISION OF CONCESSIONAL FINANCE

The total quantum of concessional finance to the handloom cooperative sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of

India for the year 1981-82 is Rs.45.82 crores. This works out to about 50% of the total credit made available by the Reserve Bank for the cooperative sector of the handloom industry in the country as a whole.

PRODUCTION

The total production in the co-operative sector of the handloom industry in the State has increased from 93 million metres in 1979-80 to 103 million metres during 1980-81. The projection for the year 1981-82 is 110 million metres. The State has so far set up 4 Design cum-Service Centres one each at Madurai, Trichirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore. One such centre is being set up at Kadayanallur in Trinelveli District during the current year. About 3400 handlooms have switched over to production of polyester fabrics. Modernisation of handlooms is also taking place in a big way.

AVAILABILITY OF CHEAPER CLOTH TO THE CONSUMERS

This State produced 15 million metres of cheaper cloth (controlled cloth) during 1980-81 and made them available to the consuming public .The target for 1981-82 is 40 million metres.

MARKETING SUPPORT

Tamilnadu has a strong Apex Handloom Cooperative popularly known as "Cooptex". At present this Apex organisation is providing marketing support to its affiliated Primary eavers Cooperative Societies numbering 1200 to the extent of about 50% of their total production. The sales performance of Cooptex during 1980-81 was to the extent of Rs. 48 crores. The Corporate Plan of Cooptex for 1981-82 aims at a sales target of Rs. 75 crores. The Cooptex is implementing the programme of "National Collection of Printed Sarees" and was recently released the first batch of finer sount sarees with traditional prints.

WELFARE SCHEMES

Weavers Housing Schemes:

A Scheme for the construction of 5000 houses for the banefit of handloom weavers in the cooperative sector has been taken up under the 6th Five Year Plan with financial assistance from HUDCO and State Government.

Savings and Security Scheme:

Another welfare scheme called the "Cooperative Handloom Weavers Savings and Security Scheme" is being implemented. 66,500 handloom weavers have so far joined the scheme. This scheme

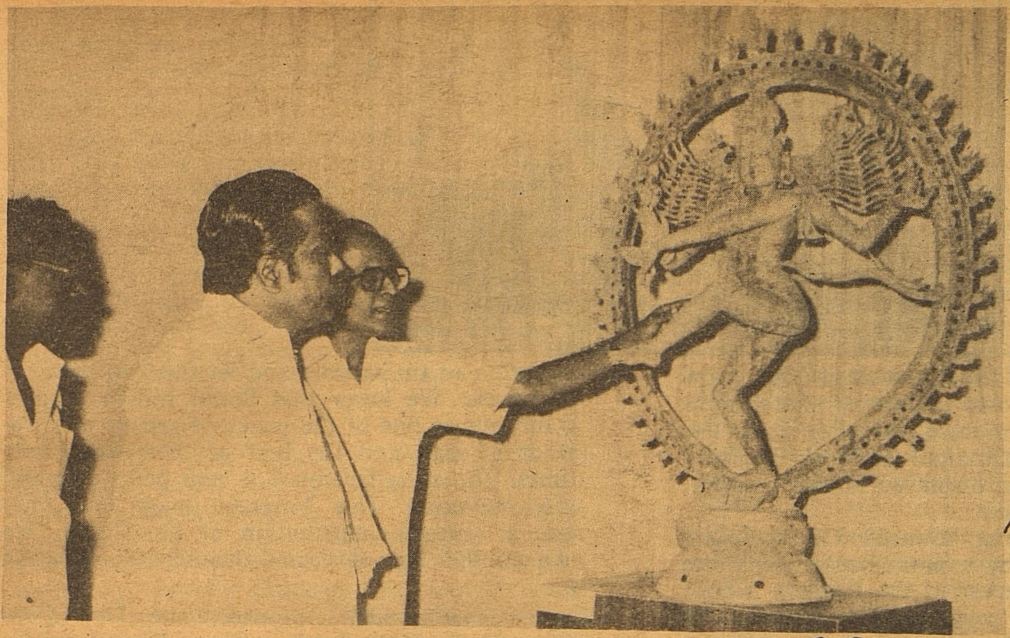
is linked to a group insurance under which, if a weaver who has joined the scheme dies, his legal heir will get a lumpsum amount of Rs. 3000- from L.I.C.

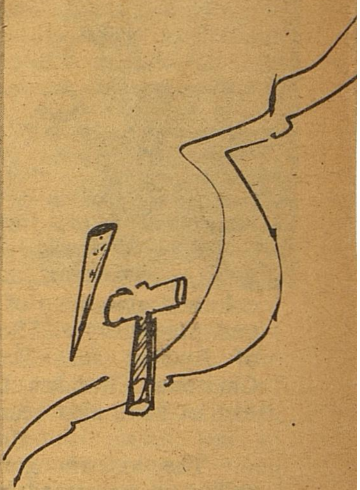
Statutory protection to handloom weavers:

With a view to give statutory protection to handloom weavers in regard to their working conditions, wages etc., the State Legislature has recently passed a Bill called the Tamil Nadu Handloom Workers (Conditions of Employment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1981 which is awaiting the assent of the President of India.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the implementation of the various handloom development programmes in our State, the handloom industry will continue to fulfill its obligation of meeting the clothing needs of the people and will help to increase the standard of living of the handloom weavers. With the Pongal fast approaching, the Cooptex has made elaborate arrangements to provide a wide range of handloom products to the consuming public. Thanks to the diversification programme accepted by the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies in the State, it has been possible for the Cooptex to introduce to the consumers exquisite designs of handloom polyester shirtings and sarees, in addition to making available the famous Kancheepuram Silks to suit the budget of the different income groups. As a measure of support, the Government have announced a special rebate of 20% on all retail sales of handloom fabrics (except for Janatha cloth and Readymade Garments) sold through 400 and odd retail outlets of Cooptex and the 1200 Primary Weavers Coperative Societies in the State. This year, the Government have also permitted a whole-sale rebate to 15% on all wholesale sales effected by the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies in the State. These special rebates would be available in all Cooptex Retail outlets from 1.10.81 and in the Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies from 7.10.81 upto 26-10-81. It is hoped that the consuming public will avail of the special rebate announced by the Government, buy their entire requirements of cloth from handloom and thereby patronise the handloom industry on which lakhs of poor handloom weavers depend for their livelihood.





TREASURE HOUSE OF Art

If one talks about Madurai, we immediately recall the beauty of Meenakshi Temple. We can readily call it as a "Treasure House of Art".

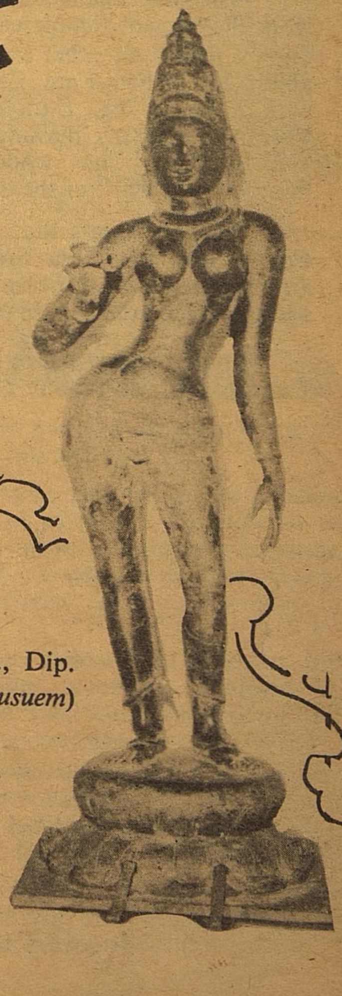
• Madurai is one of the most ancient cities of India with a rich tradition. From time beyond memory, it has been the seat of learning and Tamil culture, celebrated in literature and mythology. Until the 14th Century ,it remained the Capital of Pandian rulers. They were great patrons of Tamil learning, art and architecture. And Madurai flourished with the talent of its writers, builders, poets and academies. Madurai was the proud Centre of the Third Tamil academy-the touch stone for literary recognition, two thousand years ago. Age has not withered nor custom staled Madurai's grandeur.

The beautiful town of Madurai stands on the banks of Vaigai River, with picturesque scenery around. It shines as an example of a city planned with the great temple at the centre.

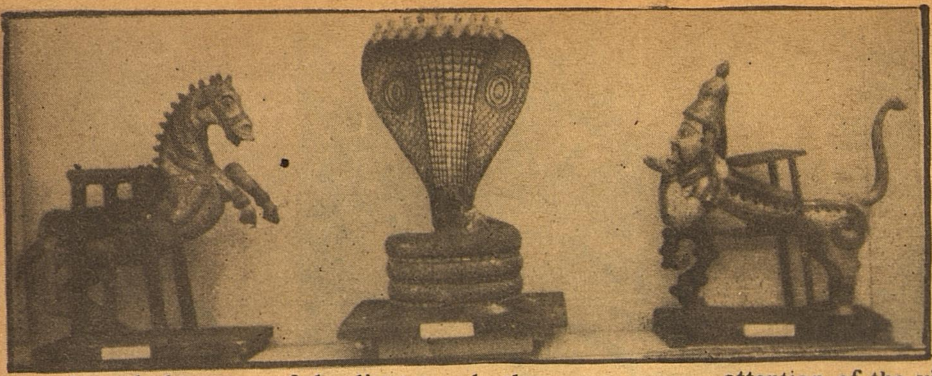
With an idea to add one more diamond to the crown of this beautiful city, in addition to the shining diamonds like Meenakshi Temple, Mariamman Teppakkulam, Mangamma Palace and Thirumalai Naicker Mahal, the Tamilnadu Government has established the third District Museum under the Department of Museums on the North bank of the Vaigai River.

The district museum has been set up as part of the policy of the Government to have a district museum at each district headquarters. Located at present in the Salt March Golden Jubilee Hall in the Gandhi Memorial Museum campus at Madurai, it sets out to fulfil the purposes of a district Museum *viz* to epitomize all the features of the district and to become the focal centre of museological activities in the district.

By N. SULAIMAN M.A., B.Sc., Dip.
Curator, (Department of Musuem)



The entrance gallery, called the Madurai Gallery, tells about the essential features of the Madurai District, its physical features, its administrative divisions, its history ,its monuments and places of interest through an illuminated



coloured glass map of the district and other maps and photographs. Some important photographs of Ancient Jain Sculpture, Muslim mosques, Christian Churches, Dindigul Fort in Madurai district have also been displayed in this Gallery.

The visitors going towards the sculpture gallery is welcomed by a monumental sculpture of Vishnu - the preserver of the Pandiya school from Madurai, with royal head-dress and with four hands of which the upper right holds a discuss and the upper left a conch shell. A small Pallava image of Gajalakshmi - Sri Devi, the Gooddess of prosperity, a seated sculpture of Mahavir, the founder of Jainism, a Nandi - the Vahana or vehicle of Siva with five ornamental decorations, a three legged Sethupala in standing posture with a Katham in his left hand and a small Saptha rishi - seven saints - seated in a row - from Madurai are the fine sculptures on display.

Moreover, twenty four fine wood carvings from the ancient temple cars have been displayed on two panels on either side. Some of the remarkable wood carvings are Ekapadamurthi-the Siva with a single leg, Dancing Ganesa, Madurai Veeran - with his burning eyes, Chauri bearers and Bhairava. The wood carvings depict the minute wood work of the ancient artists.

Then one enters the gallery of bronzes and Coins. Selected Chola bronzes of varying sizes are exhibited here to bring out the mastery of the ancient Tamil artists in this medium.

A big Nataraja figure from Vellalar Agaram, Tanjore District (about 1200 AD) invites the attention of the visitors and let them to think of its artists. We know that South Indian bronzes stand out as one of the peaks of artistic achievement of man and the best of them are Chola times. The artist fashioned it with pious care and utter devotion. This Nataraja image in bronze was a special contribution of the Chola. We can say that they surpassed themselves in creating it.

Other notable bronzes are Devi from Chitraikudi, Kaliyakrishna from Tiruvalangadu, Thirugnana Sambandar from Lalpet and Somaskanda from Semangalam.

A number of small bronzes are artistically displayed in two show cases; the Crawling Krishna from Tirunelveli, Nammalvar, Lakshmi Narasimha and Buddha from Prataparapuram are some remakable household bronzes.

Coins have had an attraction for man ever since they were struck about 2700 years ago in this country. They served the purpose as a symbol and token of value and displaced the system of exchange of goods by barter. On the left of the bronze gallery, metal casts of thirty one selected coins are attractively displayed along with photographs and the maps of the respective kings ruled. These coins tell the story of kings who ruled of yore over the different kingdoms and principal cities that comprised our land.

They also tell us about the religious persuasions of certain rulers. At the same time, they show the gradual evolution of the art of striking coins through the ages. The displayed metal cast

coins and the method of display will definitely give some more knowledge to the students in History.

The Anthropology Gallery, which comes after this, show some prehistoric stone tools like hand axes, choppers, cleavers, found in Tamilnadu dated to about 125,000 to 500,000 years back. A big burial Urn belonging to the iron age period, about 1800 years old, with some more burial potteries are also on display. Some musical Instruments like udukkai, rantunni and horns are also tastefully displayed to give an idea to the visitors about our ancient Tamil musical instruments.

We know that Madurai district is having many hilly forests and the tribal people of this district are safely dwelling here. The ethnographic collections of these tribes mainly of Pulaiyan and Paliyar, are on display here - the tribal drums, pellet bow, peculiar choppers and knives, reveal their material culture. The three fine miniature vahanas - the nine headed serpant, the horse and the man animal figure- in wood with colourful decorations attract the sight of the visitors easily.

Then one passes on to the natural science section. Here in consonance with recent trends, an attempt has been made to present the inter-relationship of Geology, Botany and Zoology through dioramas, depicting five types of environment on the earth viz. marines, tropical forest, grass land, desert and frozen desert. At the beginning, the solar system is shown on the back panel, and below it, important rocks have been embeded in a model hilly tract.

The colourful Mackaw parrot, scaly ant-eater, giant owls and the very big white polar bear standing on the snow desert are some of the exhibits, adding more attraction to the natural diorama.

The panel opposite the dioramas has been used to depict various minerals, the plant and animal classifications with their examples painted nearby which will definitely be more helpful to the biology students.

The industries of Madurai find a place in the next gallery. Three leading industrial firms T.V.S., Madurai Coats, Fenner and handlooms of Madurai are also represented through photographs and samples of their products.

A very big gun of the East India Company, a blunderbus, a fusil and four cannon balls have also been displayed as special exhibits.

Leaving the industries gallery and arms collection, one goes into the painting gallery in which traditional and contemporary paintings of Tamil nadu are represented. Eleven small paintings, showing important scenes from the legends about Madurai, Tanjore paintings on glass, wood and mica are some exhibits which explain themselves the miniute workmanship of South Indian Schools.

An impressive pathic painting of scenes from the Ramayana with ancient Tamil letters, received from Thiru A. Perumal, Madurai, occupies the full panel of this Gallery, attracts the attention of the visitors. On the succeeding panel, seven paintings, two sculptural pieces, one in fibre glass and another in metal, the inlaid wood work represent contemporary art in Tamilnadu, with special emphasis on the artists from the Madurai district.

Recently the painting of Bharathi by V.Mathavan Pillai has been displayed and this painting reminds a visitor, the poem "*Kani Nilam Vendum*"

by Bharathi. The artist has brought out the dreams of Bharathi through this painting.

A well designed display case for the publication of the department of museums, follows so as to inform the public about the various bulletins, guides and brochures brought out by this department, on various subjects from Archaeology to Natural Sciences.

Thus the Museum at Madurai, set up by the Department of Museums, attempts to project as much as possible the significant features of the Madurai district in its entirety.

Moreover the museum is serving its purpose by the educational activities ,like educative special exhibitions, popular lectures by eminent scholars and gallery talks to the group of students with special attention to their subjects and create a thought for preserving and safeguarding the antiquities among the public and students.

SURGICAL CARE IN RURAL AREAS

Prof. R. Nanjunda Rao,
B.Sc., M.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.T.M. (Lond.)

Dr. T. Gunasekaran,
M.S., M.N.A.M.S.

It is common knowledge that medical technology in the urban centres in India is comparable to those in the developed countries. But the medicare even 10 miles outside the urban limits is very deficient. People die of simple curable problems for want of medical care. The urban medicare centres are islands of sophistication and diversification in desert of want and suffering. Carrying sophisticated technology to the needy areas has engaged the attention of many a medical planner, but the solution has been eluding everyone of them, due to lack of initiative. The usual problems that are highlighted :

(*a*) Want of funds

(*b*) Reluctance of the specialists to go to the Rural Areas

(*c*) Ignorance of the community

Though, it cannot be denied that these are the problems, it has to be accepted that there has to be a crash programme to eliminate the sufferings of the rural masses which constitute about 80% of our population. The magnitude of the problem will be a dissuading factor. The lack funds will be a stumbling block for several years to come. So, a plan to circumvent the above factors will have to be considered. The services at our disposal and the existing health service structure will have to be utilised with modifications to energise this plan. The curative medical services may be broadly classified into

(*a*) Medical
(*b*) Surgical
(*c*) Obstretric Care

The health delivery care to the people of Tamilnadu is met by the following agencies :

(*a*) The Government
(*b*) Municipal Agencies
(*c*) Voluntary Organisations delivering Health Care

(*d*) Private Practitioners either as groups or as individuals.

The biggest organisation in the health care delivery is the Government. The private sector comes next.

The governmental organisation consists of (*a*) Medical Colleges and their affiliated hospitals, (*b*) District Headquarter Hospitals, (*c*) Taluk Hospitals and (*d*) The Primary Health Centres.

The Primary Health Centres are basically designed to offer preventive health care. At present, they are catering to curative demands of the community for inevitable

reasons. The Taluk Hospital is an essence, the main centre for curative medicare in the Governmental services in the health care delivery system. The taluk hospitals have a liasion with the District Headquarter Hospitals. But this liasion does not function effectively because of :

(a) Lack of co-ordination

(b) Distance involved

(c) Ignorance of the community.

Most of the taluk hospitals, barring a few, are engaged in running outpatient clinics with skeleton facilities for impatient medicare and a majority of them are unable to offer even elementary surgical care for want of :

(a) Personnel

(b) Lack of equipments

(c) Lack of para-medical staff

(d) Lack of initiative.

The most difficult technologic transfer is one of catering surgical care in the rural areas. So, a project of taking surgical care to the rural folk at their doorsteps was undertaken. The taluk hospital with an unutilised theatre was chosen. It was decided that a team of surgeons would visit the centre once a fortnight to carry out surgical procedures with the equipment that are available there. These visits would aim to train the medical officers in that hospital to make full use of the facilities available in carrying out surgical procedures. It was envisaged that in the course of time there would be a transfer of surgical technology to a centre which lacked this facility.

The centre chosen was the Government Taluk Hospital at Tiruttani. The reasons for choosing Tiruttani are :

(1) It is 50 miles from Madras—The longest distance any team in Tamilnadu would have to travel from a medical college in delivering surgical care.

(2) Tiruttani hospital has an unutilised surgical theatre with surgical instruments and apparatus and sterilisation facility.

(3) Inpatient care capacity sufficient for post-operative care.

(4) Doctors with M.B.B.S. qualification who with a little training would be able to perform surgical procedures. For example, repair of inguinal hernias, hydroceles, excision of cysts, small tumours like lipoma, etc.

PROJECT REPORT

Our surgical team made a few preliminary visits to acquaint the medical officers of the Tiruttani hospital with this idea and appraised itself of the facility available in the hospital. The operating session were carried out once a fortnight since August 1980 and have gone on till date. The medical officers travel from Madras to Tiruttani hospital by a van provided by the Government. On an average, the team would consist of two qualified surgeons and three post-graduate trainees. The screening O.P. could be run in the evening prior to the operating session so as to draw-up a provisional operating list for the subsequent session. The cases presented for screening would have been filtered off by the local medical officers from the daily O.P. clinics at the taluk hospital. The operating session itself would be during the morning. When the local medical officers are engaged in surgery, the post-graduate trainees would serve the outpatient clinics of the Taluk Hospitals. The surgical team would return to the City in the evening after entrusting the post-operative care to the Doctors of the taluk hospital. The post-operative care will be entirely in the hands of the taluk hospital Doctors. The services of the surgical team will be ever ready to assist the taluk hospital Doctors in case of emergencies.

15 operating sessions have been carried out and a little over 85 patients have been operated.

Advantages accrued out of this programme :

(1) Surgical care has been delivered to the people in and around Tiruttani at their door-steps.

(2) The facilities at the Tiruttani hospital have been used effectively.

(3) Doctors at the taluk hospital have been trained in surgical techniques.

(4) The nursing and para-medical staff have been trained in the theatre technique.

(5) Expert surgical opinions were available to the patients attending the taluk hospitals.

(6) The taluk hospital O.P. has become a liasion to the teaching hospitals.

(7) The surgical trainees are exposed to realities in the rural areas.

(8) The cost involved is negligible—would amount to sanctioning of travelling allowance and dearness allowance to the surgical team.

(9) Postings of Assistant Surgeons to Taluk Hospitals can be avoided since surgical care is mettled out to the rural masses and the surgeons will be able to contribute to teaching and research.

Being a pilot project the transport was provided by the

Deputy Director of Leprosy, Government of Tamilnadu and the surgical team was posted at Tiruttani at the Lions Club of Tiruttani.

Indirect Advantages

(1) It has been assessed that a person referred from Taluk Hospital to the teaching hospital for a surgical procedure will have to atleast visit the medical college O.P. twice before his admission and would spend on an average 7 days in the City Hospital before he is actually operated and another 8 days before discharge. On an average, he would be spending 15 to 20 days away from his work-spot. For major medical procedures the time away from his work-spot would even be longer. When the surgical procedure is carried out at the taluk hospital, the patient would be away from home only for the minimum time.

(2) When the patient is admitted in the hospital, the kith and kin would visit him atleast twice during his hospital stay and it has been observed that most patients have an attendant along with him, which means, the patient would have to spend out of his pocket to maintain an attendant (relative) for the days that he will have to be an inpatient in the City Hospital. Money spent is saved if the patient is operated near his home.

(3) The surgical trainees who have no idea of rural conditions will be exposed to realities and would be better prepared to undertake postings in the rural areas.

(4) The theatre which can be activated in the short while is ready. In the event of a natural calamity or accident, a theatre in a rural area would come in very useful. It should be emphasized that transport of injured patients will increase the morality and morbidity.

(5) Simple resustitative procedures can be done only if theatres are at the disposal of the Doctors.

(6) Doctors could easily be transported to the affected area and they can make use of the readily available theatre facilities.

(7) When surgery is carried out in a taluk hospital, the community comes to have greater confidence in the curative services of the hospital—It will reduce the out-patient load on the teaching hospitals.

(8) If surgical procedures are carried out in the taluk hospitals, the teaching hospitals will be spared of the simpler surgical problems.

(9) The specialised centres can devote more time and energy in solving complicated problems and medical research.

THE PLAN

There are 8 Government Medical Colleges in the State. It is proposed that each medical college adopt 3 taluk hospitals within a 50 mile radius. The medical colleges will extend specialised technology in the areas of general medicine, general surgery and obstetric and

gynacological care by sponsoring fortnightly visits to the respective teams to the adopted taluk hospitals. The visit of the specialists would result in the emergence of 24 additional centres catering curative, medical, surgical and gynacological services of an order that does not exist at present in those hospitals. There would be at the disposal to the Government 24 surgical hospitals ready to tackle the fall-out from natural and accidental calamities. It would require only the transport of Doctors to the needed spot.

All this can be achieved without very great additional expenditure as it has been found that activation of this taluk hospital alone is necessary. Thanks to the medical planners of Tamilnadu that many a taluk hospital is fairly well equipped. It is only some initiative and practical thinking that is necessary to activate these health delivery care centres. The benefit accrued will be quite tangible and not one of projected statistics.

Sample study of patients coming for hernias and hydrocels to the Government General Hospital has revealed the following facts:

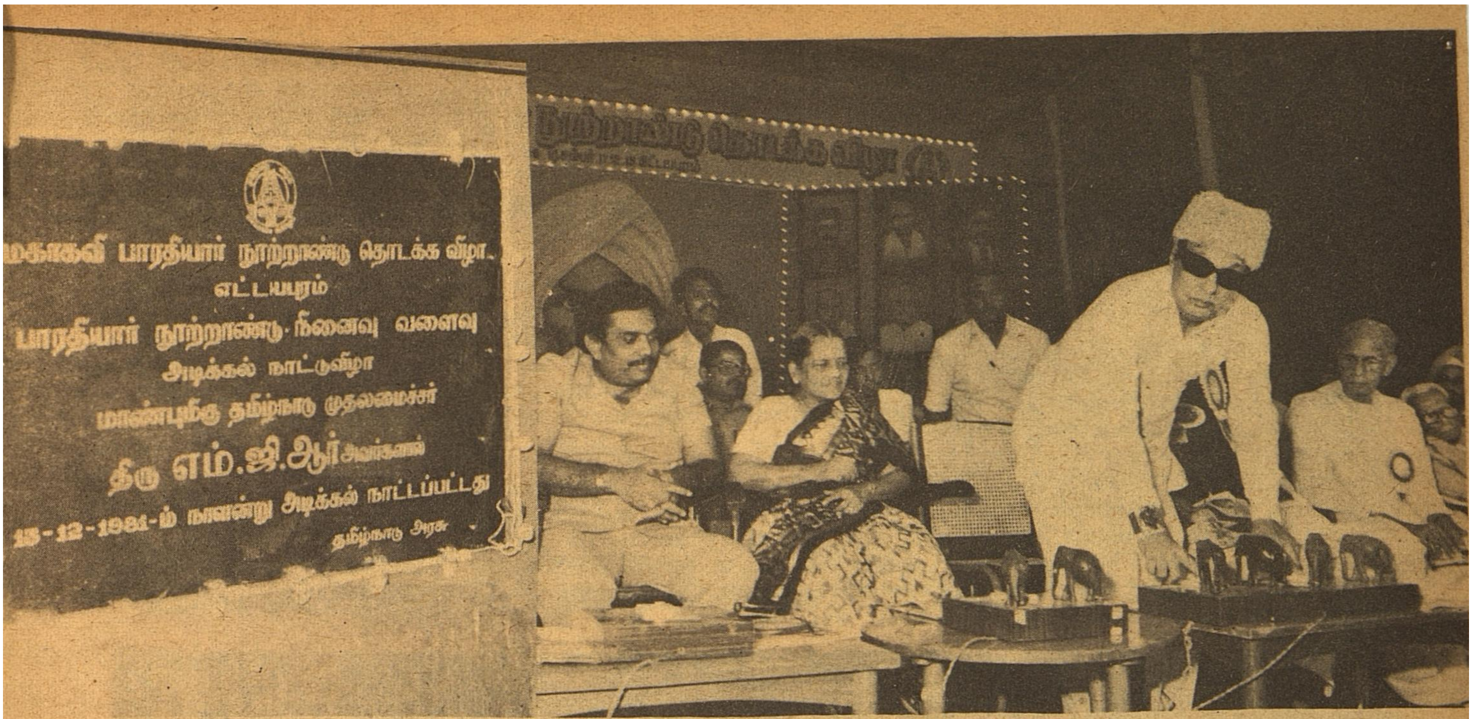
(1) 60% have given a rural address.

(2) Remaining 40%, a large number has given the City address of a relative, though in fact, they hail from a rural area.

(3) There are only about 30 existing governmental centres which offer surgery in the rural areas.

(4) Even these 30 centres are over-crowded to be effective in sophisticated health care.

(5) There is absolutely no liasion between the teaching hospitals and the rural health care centre.



A MEMORABLE EVENT AT ETTAYAPURAM

A. MUTHUSAMY M.A.

The Government of TamilNadu has rightly constituted a Centenary Celebrations Committee to celebrate the birth centenary of the great Tamil Poet Subramaniya Bharathi in a fitting manner. On behalf of this Committee, a year long celebrations have been proposed. As a prelude to this, a three day inaugural function of the birth centenary of the bard of resurgent Tamil Nadu was held at his birth place Ettayapuram, Tirunelveli District from December 11, 1981.

The erection of the Pandal was highly impressive and designed with an artistic touch. The small town of Ettayapuram was brimming with people and beautiful arches were seen at various points in the small town.

The Bharathi Memorial Mandap has been renovated and the house where the Poet was born has also been renovated by the State Archaeology Department.

To highlight the life and mission of the Poet, an exhibition near Bharathi Memorial Mandap was organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Departments of Information and Public Relations, Agriculture, Forest, Industries and Education have erected pavilions depicting the songs of the Poet in a fascinating manner. These pavilions were flooded with a vast throng of common people throughout the day. Bharathi wearing a neat turban and with his moustache

twirled and dressed in a coat was recalled by thousands of people who came to witness the celebrations at Ettayapuram. The exhibition depicting the life of Bharathi who had contributed an imperishable treasure of poems and songs in Tamil within his short span of life was very interesting. His heroic utterances and emotion ridden lines were displayed tastefully.

On the happy occasion of the centenary celebrations the people of Ettayapuram have been blessed with better roads, improved water supply and other amenities provided with a cost of Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs. The dream of the local people was realised when the inauguration function commenced here. Amidst scenes of rejoicing His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Sadiq Ali inaugurated the centenary celebrations under the Presidentship of the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Governor in his inaugural address paid glorious tribute to the national poet who was essentially a Poet, but a Poet with a purpose of vision and deep passion.

Hon. Minister for Agriculture Thiru K. Kalimuthu, a scholar in Tamil welcomed the gathering.

The Punjab Chief Minister Thiru Darbara Singh unveiled the life size statue of the Poet Bharathi amidst cheers.

The Vice Chancellors of Annamalai University, Madurai Kamaraj University and Gandhi Gram University recalled the greatness of Bharathi.

At the end, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M. G. Ramachandran addressed the people gathered there numbering over one lakh. The people heard his speech with rapt attention and great enthusiasm.

The Chief Minister announced that the Government will soon start a University exclusively for women before the end of 1982 to cherish the memory of the national Poet was welcomed with great cheers by the audience. The Chief Minister profusely quoted from the poems of Bharathi on women and their emancipation.

Kalaimamani Bala Murali Krishna rendered a music recital accompanied by his party.

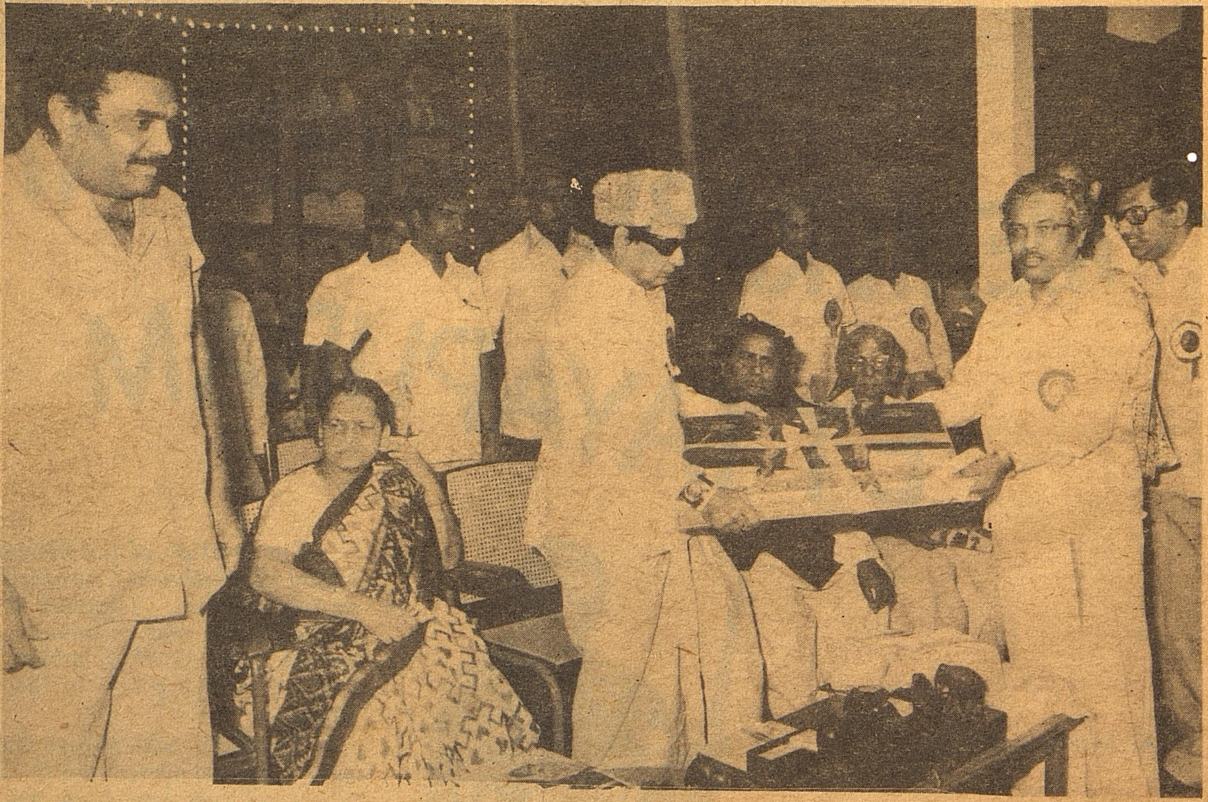
Tmt. Vani Kamalahasan gave a dance performance.

The second day function commenced with a Nadaswaram performance by Kalaimamani Namagiripettai Krishnan.

Thiru K. Diraviam, the Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the session on 12-12-81 with his impressive speech depicting Bharathi as a rare personality possessing precocious knowledge. He dwelt in detail how his poems raised the status of Tamil and Bharat in the eyes of the world.

This was followed by emotional speeches of the students drawn from various colleges under the chairmanship of Thiru Valampuri John. Their deep study of Bharathi's works was revealed remarkably in their forceful speeches. This Youth Forum provided an occasion for the younger generation to express their views about Bharathi and his ideals.

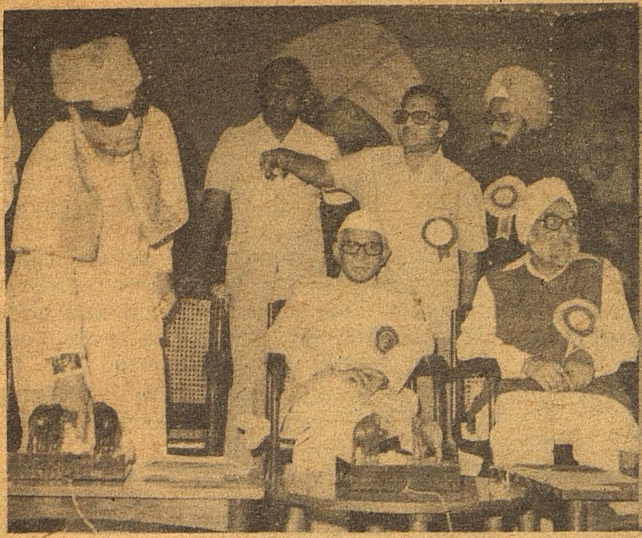
The Poets Meet and Women's Forum evoked much interest among the audience.



The evening session of the second day began with the inaugural address by Thiru R. Venkataraman, Union Finance Minister. In his speech he said that Bharathi's works would be published not only in all the Indian languages but in foreign languages also, and the audience applauded this information.

Eminent Tamil scholars spoke on various subjects glorifying Poet Bharathi on different aspects.

Dr. Navalar Nedunchezhian, Finance Minister, explained in



detail the greatness of Bharathi with quotations from his poems.

The second day session was concluded with a music performance by Sirkali S. Govindarajan and also with a drama staged by Kalaimamani S. V. Sahasranamam & Party.

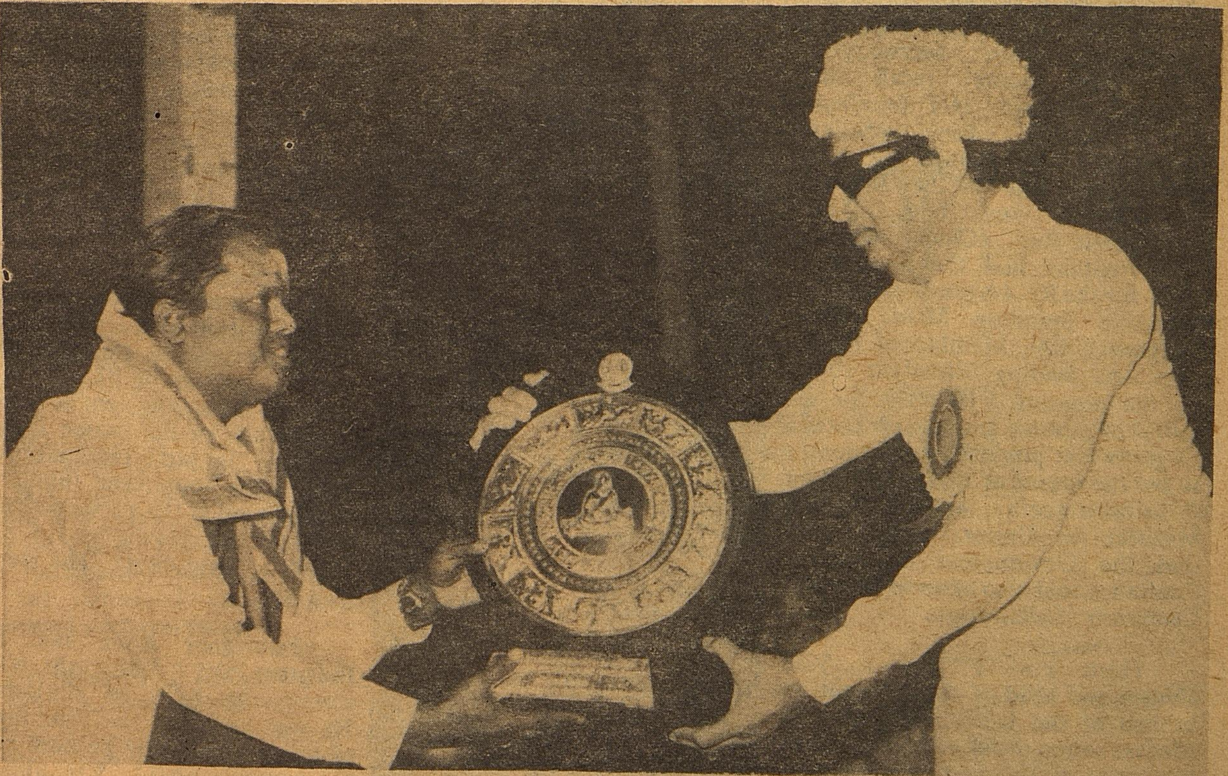
The third day session was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Perarignar Anna Technological University under the presidentship of Thiru K. Kalimuthu, the Minister for Agriculture.

A symposium was conducted in which eminent scholars drawn from various fields took part.

In the evening, leaders of various political parties paid homage to Bharathi with Thiru K. Rajaram, Speaker, Tamil Nadu Assembly in the chair.

The valedictory session, the highlight of the three day function of the centenary celebrations was presided over by Hon. Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran.

Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments welcomed the gathering. He said that this Government is implementing the lofty ideals of poet Bharathi and only to fulfil his ambition that the Anna Government under the leadership of Thiru M. G. R. is celebrating the birth day of Tamil



leaders and scholars who served this country in various capacities. He further pointed out that these celebrations were necessary to make the people recall their selfless services. Her Excellency Tmt. Jothi Venkatachallam, Governor of Kerala laid the foundation stone for the Bharathi Art Gallery and Hon. Thiru R. Gundu Rao, Chief Minister of Karnataka laid the foundation stone for the Rs. 4 crore Bharathi Co-operative Spinning Mills. Thiru Kalpanath Rai, Member of Parliament and leading litterateur spoke on the occasion. He said the removal of poverty and hunger should be given first priority in the country as per the dream of Bharathi. Thiru P. Sriramamurthy, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Cultural Affairs said that the Government of Andhra Pradesh would also observe Bharathi Centenary Celebration.

Thiru Yuri F. Runov, Vice Consul and head of the information branch of the USSR Consulate in Madras announced that the birth centenary of the poet will be celebrated in various parts of the Soviet Union. He also said that his country would donate a library to Bharathi Mandap in Ettayapuram and made a token presentation of a book to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran.

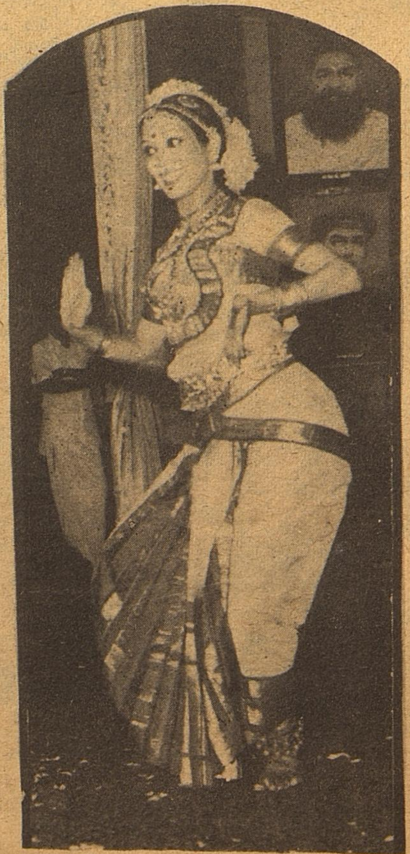
Thiru C. Aranganayagam, Education Minister presented the books containing the collection of research papers read during the Fifth World Tamil Conference seminar to the Honourable Chief Minister.

Thiru Raja Mohammed, Irrigation Minister recalled the works done by Umaru Pulavar for whom the Government would set up a suitable memorial. Thiru S. Thirunavukkarasu, Minister for Industries spoke on the proposed Spinning Mills at Ettayapuram. He said that a part of Bharathi's dream was being realised.

Thiru Bhaktavatsalam, the former Chief Minister, Thiru K.A.P. Viswanatham and Thiru N. Mahalingam recalled the multi-faceted personality of Bharathi and praised the efforts of the Government in celebrating the birth centenary of Bharathi on a grand scale.

Awards were presented to 15 artistes for their proficiency in various fine arts. They were also awarded the title of State artiste.

At the end, Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M. G. Ramachandran gave his key note address



amidst cheers from all sections of the people.

The Chief Minister announced various proposals of the Government. He said Bharathi fellowships would be created in all universities in the State and the poet's works would be brought out in three volumes and in various languages.

He announced amidst cheers that a Women's Polytechnic would be set up in Ettayapuram and preference would be given to the local people for employment in the Bharathi Co-operative Spinning-Mills being set up here.

He also said that the co-educational high schools would be converted into exclusive higher secondary schools for girls.

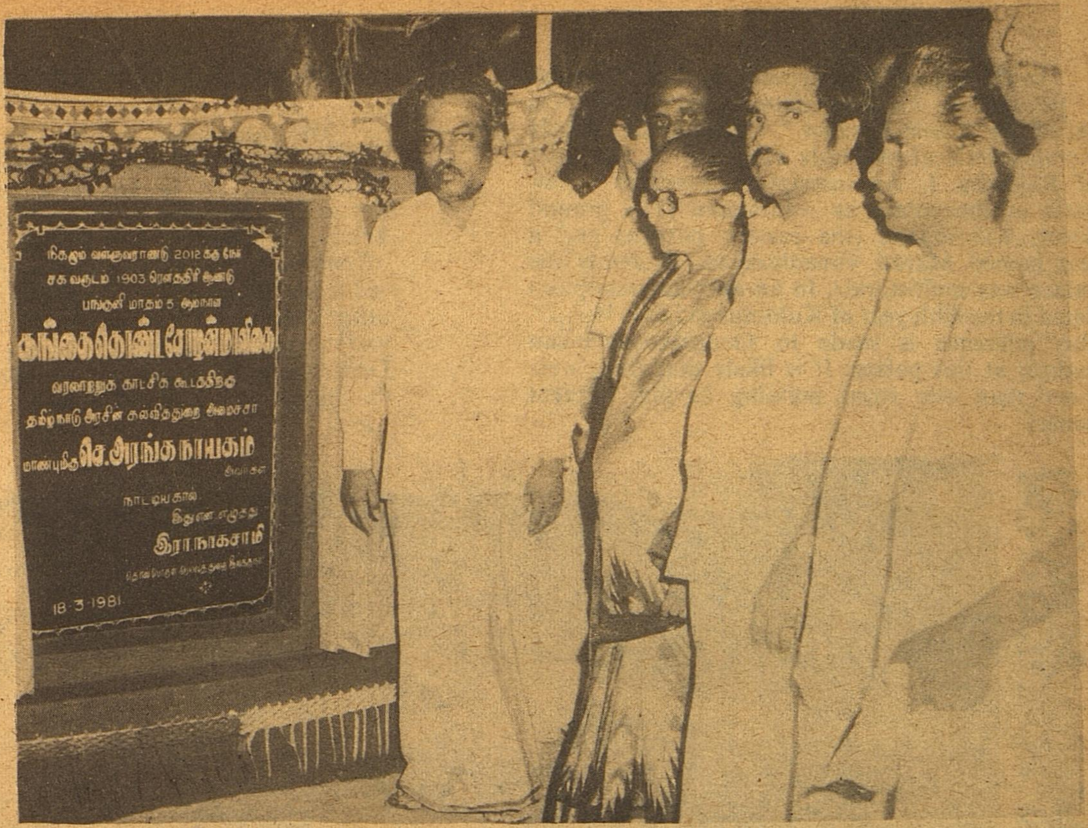
Thiru P. B. Krishnaswamy I.A.S., Secretary, Information Tourism & (Tamil) Culture Department proposed the vote of thanks.

The three day function of the birth centenary of the Poet was concluded with a music performance by Kalaimamani Madurai S. Somasundaram and party.

Selvi. Swarnamukhi, gave a scintillating dance performance.

The three day function of the birth centenary of the Poet whose words have inspired Tamils to the loftiest of endeavours and the greatest of sacrifices concluded on a happy note that this will be followed throughout the year. Lakhs of people converged on this small town during the three day festival and justified the efforts of the Government for taking all efforts to make it a success. There is no doubt that this function paved the way for the promotion of national and emotional integration through spreading the message of Bharathi. It is evident from the enthusiasm of other states of the Indian Union to celebrate the birth centenary of the Poet. One important thing to be remembered is the participation and keen interest shown by the people in all the three days. The fact may be this.

Perarignar Anna said about the great Poet : 'Bharathi was not merely the bard of Nationalism. He was certainly the morning star of reformation only because he was the people's poet.' Yes this may be the reason for the people's participation in lakhs in all the three day function.



GANGAIKONDA CHOLAN MAALIGAI

K. SRIDARAN,
Archaeologist, Department of Archaeology.
Govt. of Tamilnadu.

Gangaikondacholapuram is a small village situated about 100 Kms. from Thirnchirappalli. Though it is now a small village, it occupies an important place in the History of India. Gangaikondacholapuram was created as capital of Chola Kingdom by Rajendra Chola I and for about 250 years the city controlled the affairs of entire South India from Tungabhadra in the north to Ceylon in the South. The city was founded to commemorate his victorious march to the Ganges.

Tamil literary works like Tiruvisaippa of Karuvurdevar ,the Kalingattu -p- parani of Jayankondar, the Muvar Ula of Ottakkuthar and Koilolugu give elaborate details about the City.

CITY

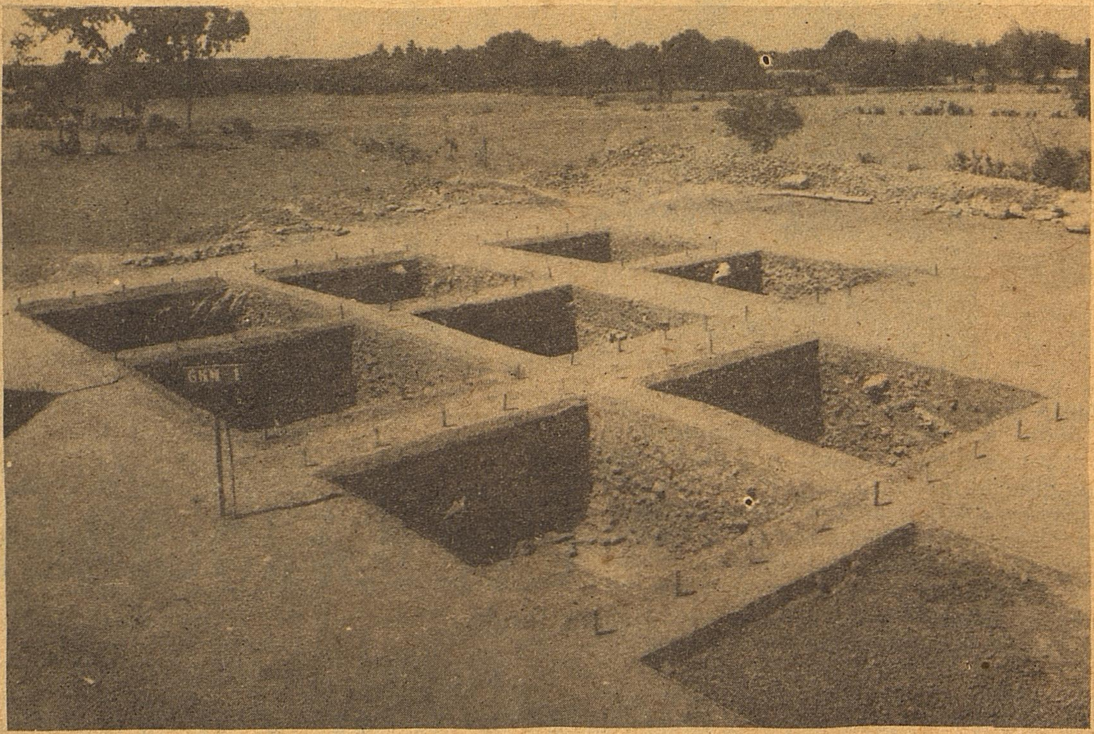
The city seems to have had two fortifications. It is propable that the outer fortification built of burnt bricks was about 6' to 8' wide. It consisted of two external walls, with the intervening space (the core) being filled with sand. The bricks are fairly large in size and are made of well burnt clay. The outer fortification wall of this palace is called as Rajendra Cholan madil (the fortnamed Rajendra Chola) evidently after the builder. The inner fortification which is probably indentical with the Utpadaivittumadil of the inscriptions was around the royal palace.

The royal palace was also built of burnt bricks. The ceilings were covered with flat tiles of small size laid with fine lime mortar. The pillars were propably made of polished wood, supported by granite bases some of which have been unearthed in the recent excavations done by this Department. Iron nails and clamps have also been collected in considerable quantity.

In the reign of Virarajendra, son of Rajendra I the palace at Gangaikondacholapuram was called as Chola-Keralan Thirumlaigai (Chola Keralan Palace) evidently after one of the titles of Rajendra I. An inscription mentions a few parts of the palace as Adhibhumi (The ground floor), Kilaisopana (the eastern portico) and a seat named Mavali Vanadhirayan. Evidently the palace was multistoried. In an another inscription dated in the 49th year of Kulothunga i.e. 1119 A.D. also reference is made to Gangaikondacholan maligai at this palace. It is likely that there were more than one royal building having different names.

GANGAIKONDACHOLAPURAM MUSEUM

The foundation stone for Gangaikonda Cholan Maligai Museum was laid in March'81. The Department has so far collected about 20 sculptures in and around the villages of Gangaikonda Cholapuram. In addition to that a number of palm leaf manuscripts have also been collected from the nearby villages. The above items and other Archaeological finds collected from excavation will be displayed in the Museum. The Department is continuing its effort in collecting the sculptures found in this area.



Besides the name of the palace, the names of some roads and streets are preserved in the epigraphs. Two entrances 'Thir vasal', (the eastern gate) and the Vembugudi gate (evidently the South gate leading to the village Vembugudi situated in that direction) are mentioned. Reference is also found to highways named after Rajaraja and Rajendra as Rajarajan Peruvali and Rajendran Peruvali, Kulottunga Cholan Tirumadil Peruvali and Kulaiyanai pona Peruvali. Other streets mentioned in epigraphs are 'The ten streets' (Pattuteru) 'The gate way lane' (Thiruvasal Narasam) and the Suddhamali lane.

Probably in the reign of Kulothunga, the fortifications and the city had undergone some alterations and additions.

A few villages like Viracholapuram, Kollapuram, Meykavalputhur, etc. lying mostly to the east of the temple recall their association with the original layout of the city.

The city might have been destroyed by Pandyas late in 13th century avenging their earlier defeats at the hands of the Chola's.

An inscriptional stone was brought from Maligaimedu. The inscription dated in the 22nd year (929) of Parantaka 1 records the remisions of tax paid by the Valanjiyar Ainurruvar, a merchant guild in order to encourage them to settle down in Irumidi Cholan Big Street at Tanjore. The gift was made at the request of Naga Mangalam Udaiyan the chief guardian of the Tanjore Palace. The executive officer of the Palace was insterestingly an architect named Muvenda Perumatachchan.

A temporary exhibition was set up near the excavation site. A large number of people including school students visited and appreciated the Chola art. Hence it is proposed to set up a permanent site Museum which will focus the attention of the visitors on the nature of the royal city that played a key role in the history of the medieval period and continuously held a superior position for about two hundred and fifty years.

INDIAN OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

The Government of India Overseas Communications Service (OCS) came into existence from 1-1-1947 by nationalising the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Limited, a private organisation. After taking over the external tele-communications, this department has expanded its activities manifold, as a result of which the volume and diversity of traffic recorded a rapid increase.

In line with the modernisation of telecommunications service all over the world, and the growth of traffic, OCS established a satellite earth station at Arvi near Bombay in 1971. This modern facility provided a very reliable communication to all points of the world on round the clock basis resulting in a phenomenal growth of traffic. To meet this traffic demand a second earth station was established in Dehra Dun near Delhi in 1976. With these modern facilities, OCS could establish direct links with practically all countries of the world with which we have significant amount of traffic. As on date, the external communications network of OCS has 384 direct telephone circuits, 710 direct telex circuits and 45 direct telegraph circuits. More than 99 per cent of the overseas telephone and telex calls are now handled via the satellite communications system giving round the clock reliable service to the customers. Recently, last month, OCS has opened a new troposcatter system between India and USSR which was inaugurated by our Prime Minister to introduce one more technique in the field of OCS operations. The inauguration of the IOCOM submarine cable, connecting Madras (India) and Penang (Malaysia) will now provide yet another diversity in India's external communications service, with several countries of the world and will serve as an alternative route during contingencies of interruption in the satellite telecommunications system thereby ensuring continuity and security of India's overseas communications services.

The Madras Centre of OCS, which was only a telegraph cable station in 1947 became a HF radio centre also in 1960 with direct HF links to countries like U. K., Singapore, Indonesia, etc. Madras was further connected to the facilities available via the satellite earth station at Arvi and Dehra Dun through the national network. Consequently the subscribers from Madras could have direct dialling facility of their telex calls and also have the international subscriber dialling facility to U. K. Semi-automatic operation is also available to many countries from Madras. With the opening of this IOCOM submarine telephone cable from Madras, a direct access is now made to many countries of the world without going through the Arvi earth station at Bombay or the Dehra Dun earth station at New Delhi through the national network, thus providing vastly improved service on international telephone and telex calls to the southern region of India.

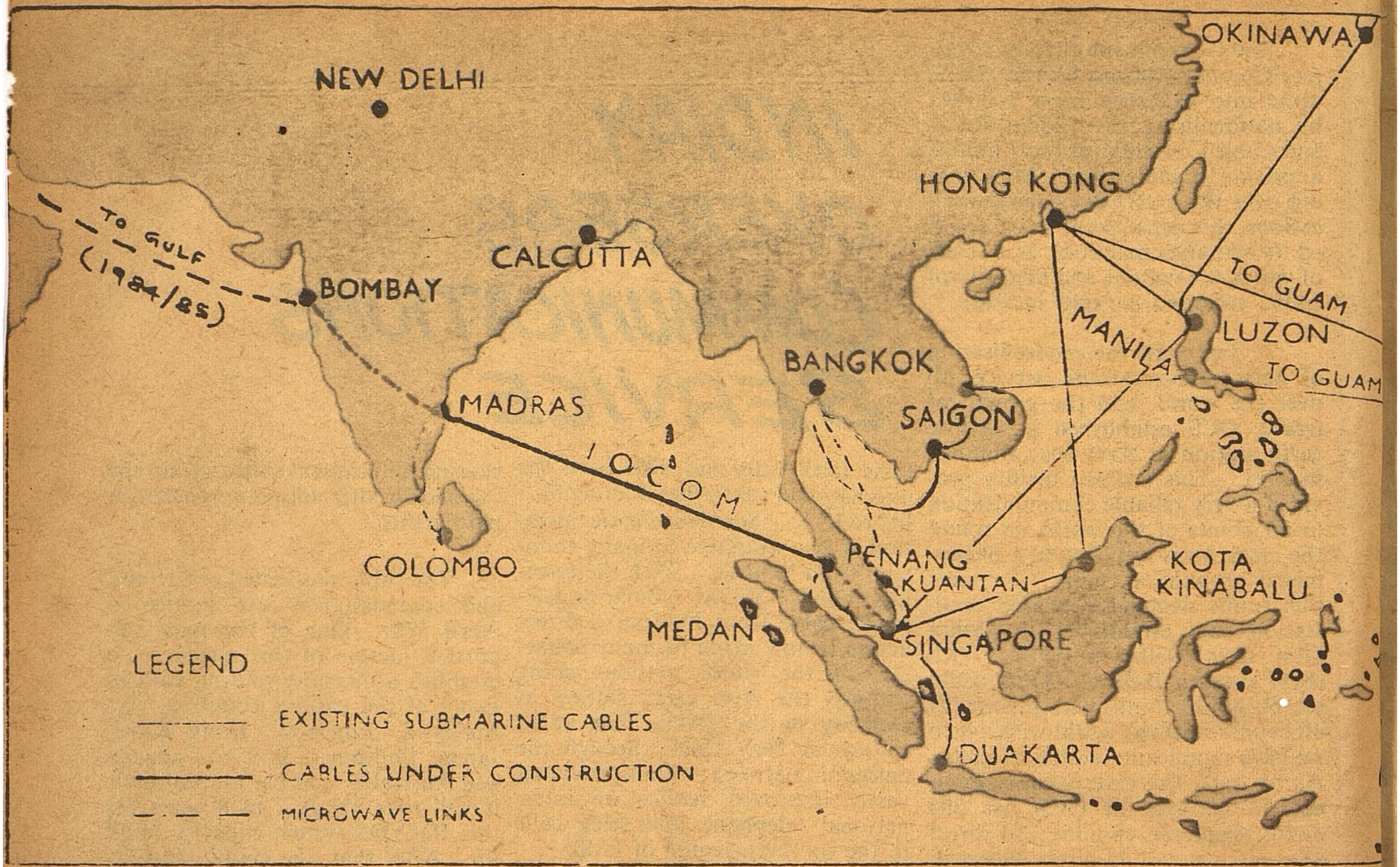
The planning of this IOCOM cable project started as early as in 1972 in the Commonwealth Telecommunications Forum and was included in the Fifth Five Year Plan of the OCS. This project was approved by the Public Investment Board in November 1977. After a series of commonwealth planning meetings at various levels, 7 commonwealth external telecommunication administrations viz., Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Britain, India, Australia, Singapore and Canada decided in May 1978 to go ahead with the implementation of this Madras-Penang section as the first phase of the Indian Ocean Commonwealth (IOCOM) cable network. OCS was nominated as the overall Project Co-ordinator. After the cable route survey and other formalities, the contract was awarded to Messrs. Standard Telephone Company(STC) of U. K. on the basis of global tenders. The laying of the cable started in February 1980 and completed in July 1980 in all respects. This is a 5 MHz bandwidth submarine cable system having an initial capacity of 480 (4 KHz) telephone circuits which can be increased to 640 (3KHz) circuits later on. This IOCOM cable planning and execution is an excellent example of the co-operation, mutual assistance and sharing of technical skills within the commonwealth telecommunication partnership.

The cable was tested end to end and commissioned into service in April 1981. One of the most important factors of this system is to establish a diversity routing path to many of the eastern countries viz., Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Philipines, U.S.A., Cananda and Australia. As per our estimate, it will take about 7 to 8 years for this IOCOM system capacity to fill up. After that, the circuit capacity can be increased by modern techniques such as TASI which can increase the system capacity to nearly 1,200 circuits. The cable itself which stretches between Madras and Penang, extends 1350 nautical miles under the Bay of Bengal, which consists of a submerged 'Plant' comprising a 0.99" coaxial cable punctuated 173 electronic repeater amplifiers with 11 equalisers spliced into the cable. The IOCOM cable consists of 2760 tonnes of steel, 240 tonnes of copper, 190 tonnes of aluminium, 1980 tonnes of Polythylene and 175 tonnes of Polyprophylene. The rated life span of this cable is about 25 years but normally this extends beyond this.

The capital investment for this entire project runs to about Rs. 67 crores out of which India's share of the investment is about Rs. 38 crores. The linking of this IOCOM cable with other cable networks of the far-eastern countries is shown in a sketch given in annexure.

To exploit this new IOCOM cable facilities to the maximum, a gateway centre has been established at Madras so as to provide vastly improved service on all international telephone/telex calls of this region. This 'Videsh Sanchar Bhavan' (VSB) will shortly house the Inter-

IOCOM AND OTHER SUBMARINE CABLES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD



national Gateway Telephone and Telex Exchanges, International Maintenance Centre, International Switching and Testing Centre, Telegraph Message Retransmission System, Radio photo system, Programme Transmissions, Leased Private Telephone and Teleprinter Circuits, High Speed Data circuits and a host of other international telecommunication facilities. This VSB six storey building has been built at a cost approximately Rs. 3.2 crores on a site specially made available by the kind courtesy of the Tamil Nadu Government in the Government Estate. The site is ideal since it is very close to the sea shore and also in the centre of the metropolitan Madras City, the hub of economic activity. The building has been specially designed keeping functional aspects mainly in view which warrants no break of the airconditioning for the critical areas, dust free environment of certain equipments and through interconnections with the various floors etc. to meet the specific requirements to the latest type of electronic equipments employed for the gateway switching systems installed in the building.

There will be uninterrupted supply of power in this building by different sources, besides emergency engine generators which are of automatic quick starting type. Extensive fire prevention and protection arrangements have been made with a centralised alarm arrangement. Welfare amenities for the benefit of the staff by way of canteen, recreation club, dormitory etc. have also been provided. The building was designed and constructed by the Central Public Works Department to a tight time schedule. Work on the superstructure commenced in January 1979 and completed by November 1981.

The SPC type Electronic Gateway Telephone Exchange (GSS) is in the final stage of installation testing and the same is scheduled to put into commission during the first quarter of 1982. It will then be possible to operate most of the international circuits carrying the traffic for the southern region of India at Madras itself leading to considerable improvement in the service. Phased introduction of international subscriber dialling (ISD) to a number of countries has also been planned.

The SPC electronic gateway telex exchange (GATEX) is expected to become operational by March 1982. This exchange will directly handle all international traffic of the southern region with further improvement in the international telex services. Both the above systems employ the latest technology and sophisticated techniques overcoming many of the shortcomings of conventional electro-mechanical systems. Owing to their unique features, it will be possible to offer new facilities to the public.

Plans are on hand to provide an electronic SPC type Automatic Message Telegram Retransmission and Switching System for speedy disposal of international telegrams similar to the one already installed at our Bombay Centre.

With these facilities, we envisage that this Madras Gateway Centre would greatly promote the industrial, social and economic prosperity of this region and in turn the whole of India as well.

Coutesy : P. I. B.
Government of India.

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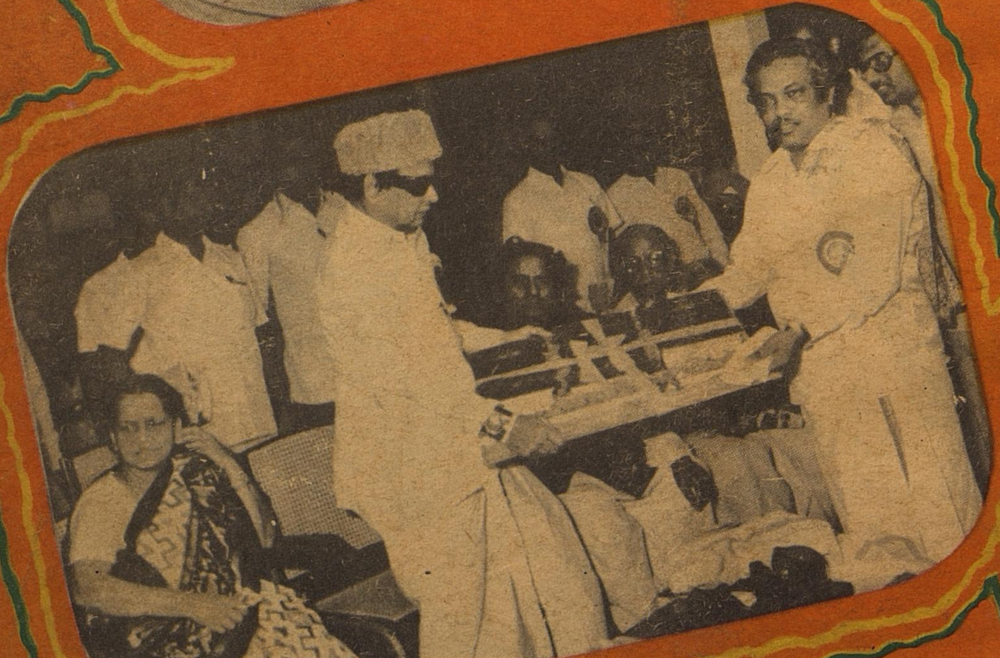
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